

THE RAIN ANCESTORS

Our earliest record of one Cornelius Rain was recorded Sept. 23, 1763 in St. John's Parish, Georgia, when he entered into a marriage contract with Margaret Lucas, a widow, wherein she named six negroes who were not to be considered community property of the marriage: (from the Georgia Colonial Records, Vol. 0, page 256 (1762-1765))

"This indenture made twenty second day of September in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and sixty three between Cornelius Rain of the one part and Margaret Lucas Widow of the other part. Whereas the said Margaret Lucas is possessed of and intitled unto six negroes named as follows to witt: Fred, Sam, Priven, Jenny, Queen, & Silvia; And, Whereas a marriage is intended to be shortly held and solemnized between said Cornelius Rain and the said Margaret Lucas, upon the contract of which marriage the said Cornelius Rain hath agreed that If the same shall take affect. That then not- Withstanding the said marriage, he the said Cornelius Rain His Executors, Administrators or assigns shall not have any property or title in or to the said negroes, but the same shall remain continue and be to the said Margaret Lucas or to be such uses as the said Margaret Lucas shall think fit and appoint. Now This Indenture witnesseth that for the making the said agreement effectual in law and for preserving the right of property of the above named six negroes with their issue and increase to the said Margaret Lucas and so that the same shall not be in the Power or Disposal of him the said Cornelius Rain he the said Cornelius Rain doth for himself his executors and administrators and for every of them covenant promise and agree to and with the said Margaret Lucas and her executors and administrators by these presents that notwithstanding the said intended Marriage shall take effect as the above mentioned negroes with their increase shall be accounted reckoned and taken as a separate and distinct estate of and from the said Cornelius Rain and to be no ways lyable or subject to him or to the payment of any of his debts. Provided always never the less and it is hereby agreed expressed and declared by and between the said parties to these presents that the said Cornelius Rain shall have a right to employ the said negroes in any business or manner he shall think fit and to be entitled to any profits arising from their labour over and above what the said Margaret Lucas shall think Sufficient for her maintenance anything herein before contained to the contrary in any wise not with standing. In Witness whereof the said parties have to their presents interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year first above written,

his
Cornelius **R** Rain
mark

Sealed and delivered, the words
between the second and third line from the
bottom being first underlined in the
Presence of Arthur Carney Elizabeth Carney

It is interesting to speculate who Margaret was before her first marriage perhaps a Carney? And who was her first husband LUCAS?

The next record we found was recorded in the "East Florida Papers".

In 1768, Cornelius Rain received a Royal Title Patent from the British Gov't for 200 acres on the NW Branch of the Nassau River in East Florida. He sold it in 1769 to John Lofton and the transfer was confirmed by the Spanish Gov't when they took possession of Florida in 1795.

We presume this to be the same Cornelius Rain who married Margaret Lucas in 1763. We have found numerous records of one Cornelius Rain and Joseph Rain in Florida (just south of Camden Co. GA) and later back in Camden Co, GA but these records are later than the dates we find Cornelius with his mother, Margaret, established in Washington Co. Alabama. Obviously, there is some family connection and it is probable that the Joseph referred to was brother of Cornelius who married Margaret Lucas.

Let me relate briefly some of the records found in the East Florida Papers and the records of Camden County GA.

In 1763, Spain gave Florida to England and received Havana (Cuba) in exchange. For 20 years East Florida prospered under British rule and the white population had increased to about 25,000. During the American Revolution, Spain attempted to re-capture Florida but failed. From a book entitled "Old St. Augustine" by Reynolds, I quote the following section.

"The town of St. Augustine had remained loyal in the cause of her British sovereign. The rebellious colonies had been victorious. The war was over. Rangers and Liberty Boys laid down their arms; and the Florida planters returned to their fields. With them were numerous accessions of Loyalist from the other Colonies, who refused allegiance to the banner of the thirteen stars and were now come to Florida to live again under British Colors. Peace resumed her gentle sway; and St. Augustine became once more a busy metropolis of a thriving English Province. Across the bay on St. Anastasia Island, north beyond the gates, west from the batteries on the San Sebastian, and south beyond the stockades- in every direction, smiled the fields of indigo, the sugar plantations and orange groves. The traders rebuilt their booths along the Indian trails; the distillers of tar and turpentine kindled once more their fires among the pines; the shingle-cutters felled the cypress logs; the live-oakers returned again to hew out the famous Florida timber for building English Ships. In, over the Kings Road, coming north from the Indian River and south from the St. Mary's, crawled the slow wagon trains, creaking beneath their burdens of naval stores and the harvest of the plantations. The harbor was white with the wings of commerce. Prosperity reigned on every hand. The town, beautiful, amid her orange bowers, bustled with enterprise and was gay with the social delights. Her citizens rejoiced in the present; and their hearts were filled with bright anticipations for the future - that future, which should bring its full recompense for their seven years of war and its fitting reward for their steadfast allegiance to their King.

It vanished in a twinkling. Into the harbor, one day, came a ship of the Royal Navy with message of startling import. The Most Serene and Most Potent Prince, George the Third, by the Grace of God. King of Great Britain, and the most Serene and most Potent Prince, Charles the Third by the Grace of God. King of Spain and of the Indies, has been playing together a royal game of chess; and each had surrendered to the other a castle. To England, Spain yielded Jamaica; and to Spain England in exchange gave Florida. The treaty moreover provided that the British armies should immediately evacuate the province.

This was the reward granted to the citizens of St. Augustine for their staunch fidelity through

the seven years of War". The message fell as falls the frost that blights the orange. Joy was changed into Sorrow- etc."

So Florida was given back to Spain in 1783.

In 1781, at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, many of the Tories or Loyalists to the British Crown) were permitted to leave the Colonies and emigrate to British-held Florida, where the Crown issued them lands in proportion to the size of their family and the number of slaves they owned. Their lands and properties in the Colonies were confiscated and sold.* Further, the British Government reimbursed many of them for the losses they had sustained.

Would you be shocked if I told you that our ancestors were included among these Tories who had to flee? Before you pass judgment on them, let's look back almost 200 years and see what you would have done in like circumstances.

In Great Britain, only the eldest son inherited the estate and title, if any, from his father. This left the younger sons with virtually nothing. They saw the opportunity of gaining large tracts of land in the American colonies by aiding destitute or religious sects to immigrate there.* For each person who would come with them, and by paying their fare for passage, they would receive an additional grant of land. Many men of note were granted large tracts of land as a favor for services rendered the British Crown.

This decision is the clue to the migration of our ancestors. They were true pioneers of stalwart stock. Each move meant clearing new lands and establishing new homes for their families. And when the lands on which they settled finally became part of the United States, they were respected citizens and aided in the establishment of fine communities; churches, and governing bodies.

So, we find our ancestors first in Virginia as pioneer settlers, then South Carolina. Georgia. East Florida, West Florida (Alabama. Mississippi Territory) and finally. East Texas.

When the Tories were forced to flee to East Florida, there were many notices appearing in the papers of Charlestown in 1782 relative to the removal of such persons.

From the "Royal Gazette" of March 20, 1782:

"A MEETING of such of the loyal Inhabitants whose Property may be affected by the late Confiscation Act of the Rebel Assembly is proposed to be held at STRICKLAND'S Tavern on Friday Evening the 22nd Instant, when it is particularly requested that all those possessed of Property in this Province, whose Loyalty to their Sovereign, has rendered them Object of Resentment to the Rebels, will attend."

And on April 17, 1782:

"The Refugees who are desirous of going to East Florida to settle there, agreeable to the encouragement contained in Governour Tonym's Proclamation, are desired to call on Mr. Allen at Mr. Andrew Stewart's, No. 20 Bay, who is just from thence, will soon return, and will be very happy to render them any service in his power."

From the "Royal Gazette" dated Sept. 7, 1782:

."The inhabitants are hereby informed, that a Convoy will be ordered and every possible assistance given to convey to St. Augustine such of them, who, from the expected withdrawal of the King's troops from this town, may desire to remove with their families and effects to the Province of East-Florida. All persons so disposed are therefore required to notify their intentions at the Quarter-Master- General's office where they will. at the same time deliver in a specifick account of the property they mean to take with them. All persons who propose to remove from town to other parts, are also required to give three days publick notice of their intentions."

Head-Quarters. 7th August. 1782

By Order of the Lieut. General

Edward Scott, Secretary

The majority of southern Loyalists believed that East Florida would be held permanently by the British, and for this reason many flocked there. Few Loyalists escaped with much of their property, as can be seen in the sale of-confiscated property throughout the southern states. When the British abandoned Florida, these unfortunate citizens were forced into another move, many going to New Providence and Jamaica. The Spanish Governor, however, invited aliens to come to East Florida. They were required to swear allegiance to the crown and to become Spanish subjects. They were offered 100 acres for each head of family, 50 acres for each white member of the family and 50 acres for each slave they owned. They were required to build houses, roads, fences and cultivate the land for 10 years, at the end of which time outright deeds would be granted.

Listed among the new settlers from Virginia, the Carolinas and South Georgia were McIntosh, Atkinson, Hollingsworth, Lang. Cryer, RAINES, Blunt, Hogan, Ashley and Plummer.

Many of these new residents became dissatisfied, however, with the restrictions of trade and were subsequently suspected of being disloyal to the Spanish King. From the "East Florida Papers":

"Four suspects were arrested and taken to San Nicolas and placed in jail. On Aug. 10. 1795 they were taken to St. Augustine for questioning by Gov. Quesada. They were JOSEPH RAINS, CORNELIUS RAINS, John Simpson and Cornelius Griffiths."

Obviously, they were later released because later we find the following record in the Camden Co. Georgia Inferior Court Records:

Minutes of (Nov. 1, 1798 - JOSEPH RAIN, a young man, native of Georgia, who left the State with his father (unnamed) but returned and located in Camden before he was 21 years of age. was naturalized."

And the 1809 Camden Co., Georgia Tax lists JOSEPH RAIN with 10 slaves.

The earliest records of Camden County. Georgia, were destroyed but many later records are available and there is much information concerning the RAIN families living there in the early 1800s. Perhaps someday we will learn their connection to the first known Cornelius Rain.

Unconfirmed claimants of Spanish Land Grants in East Florida lists:

RAIN, COLE (?)

RAIN, ELIZABETH (dau. of Solomon A Sarah King)

RAIN, JOSEPH (father of Solomon King Rain)

RAIN, SOLOMON KING (g.son of Solomon A Sarah King)

RAIN, WILLIAM

(relationships of above from will records)

Confirmed claims include»

CORNELIUS RAIN

JOSEPH RAIN

Camden County, Georgia Deeds on records and abstracted:

Nov. 7. 1806 - WINNIE RAIN, widow to her son. CORNELIUS REIN, both of Camden Co. Instrument of gift for 4 slaves.

Nov. 7, 1806 - WINNIE RAIN. widow to her son, JOSEPH RAIN, both of Camden Co. Instrument of gift for 5 slaves.

May 2, 1826 – Cornelius Rain and wife Susan, of Camden Co. sell to R. Brown, 10 slaves

May 1 1828 _ Will of CORNELIUS RAINS: Bequeaths to his wife Susan: eldest son, CORNELIUS RAINS; eldest daughter Pollie: 2nd daughter Margaret; youngest daughter Sarah and daughter Martha Drummond.

