

## RAIN in East Florida

Our earliest record of Cornelius Rain was when he entered into a marriage contract on Sept. 22, 1763 in St. John's Parish, Georgia, with Margaret Lucas, a widow. Where, we wonder, did Cornelius come from prior to this date? Who were his parents?

In 1768, we found that a Cornelius Rain had received a Royal Title Patent from the British Government for 200 acres on the NW branch of the Nassau River in East Florida. However, he sold it to John Lofton in 1769. Joseph Rain also acquired land on the Nassau River. Joseph and Cornelius Rain were probably brothers, though we have no proof. We do know that Joseph stayed in Florida and later moved back to Camden Co. Georgia, just north of Nassau River, and there are many records of his descendants there. (Notes the Joseph who returned to Georgia in 1798 could have been the son of the above Joseph.)

In 1783 when East Florida was ceded back to Spain, the Spanish Governor Zespedes required a census to be taken of every inhabitant. His particular interest was to determine who would remain as Spanish residents and pledge allegiance to the Spanish King (and the Catholic Church) and who preferred to remove to British-held territories. It was in a recent translation of this census (published in the Georgia Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 39, 1971) that we found the first possible clue to the RAIN birthplace and I quote from it.

### **Zespedes Census - 1783 - East Florida**

JOSEPH RAIN: Native of Pennsylvania, avails of Spanish protection to remain in the country, he has a wife and seven children, his occupation farmer, he has 12 negroes, ten horses and twenty head of cattle, lives on the Nassau ten miles from St. Marys.

JOHN LOFTON: Native of Virginia, avails of Spanish protection to remain in the country, he has a wife and one child, four negroes, ten cows, 200 acres of land and one house, his, which he inhabits, on the Nassau four miles from St. Marys. (This was the same tract acquired from Cornelius Rain in 1769)

JOHN JOHNSTON: Native of Georgia, he avails himself of the Spanish protection to retire (to British lands) he has a wife and four children, his occupation farmer, he has ten slaves, eight horses and about ninety head of cattle. He inhabits the vacant estate of Davis a mile from the Cow Ford. (For the time being, we can presume this is our ancestor, who according to tradition, moved from St. Marys, Fla. to Pensacola, thence to Alabama. If so, he is the one who married Joyce Powell, daughter of William Powell (below) and their 'daughter, Elizabeth, married Cornelius Rain", son of Cornelius Rain and Margaret.)

WILLIAM POWELL: Native of South Carolina, he avails himself of Spanish protection with his will undecided, he has a wife and four children, occupation farmer, he has three negroes and four horses, lives on the St. Mary's River.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON: Native of Scotland, he avails of Spanish protection to retire, later, to the British Dominions, he has a wife and three children, his profession pilot, he has five slaves and one mare. He inhabits a rent house on Charlotte St. (in St. Augustine, Fla.) (There are so many Wm. Jo children, occupation farmer, he has three negroes and four horses, lives on the St. Mary's River.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON: Native of Scotland, he avails of Spanish protection to retire, later, to the British Dominions, he has a wife and three children, his profession pilot, he has five slaves and one mare. He inhabits a rent house on Charlotte St. (in St. Augustine, Fla.) (There are so many Wm. Johnstons in any given area, I do not claim that this is the father of the above John Johnston, but it is entirely possible)

This census also included many other families whose names appeared later in the early land records along

the Tombigbee River in Mississippi Territory (now Alabama).in about 1785. So it appears they were all displaced citizens who remained loyal to the British Crown, leaving Spanish-held Florida and settling in British-held Mississippi Territory. Just when and where Cornelius Rain died is unknown but in testimony given in 1804 in Alabama, it was established that Cornelius Rain was the son of Margaret Moore, widow of Moses Moore and was cultivating the lands of Moses Moore, which Margaret had the use of during her lifetime. Testimony was also given that Moses Moore had died in 1791 so Cornelius had obviously died prior to that date. We have found no records of Cornelius during the intervening years from 1769 to 1785.

Margaret-Lucas-Rain-Moore- then married John Linder, Sr. She died in 1800 and John Linder, Sr. died about 1804. (see pages B-9. B-10)

### **Cornelius Rain(2) and Elizabeth Johnston**

If Cornelius Rain(1) and his wife, Margaret (Lucas) had other children, we have no record of them. But we do know they had a son, Cornelius who was born about 1765 and married Elizabeth Johnston, the daughter of John Johnston and Joyce (Powell) Johnston. The Rain, Johnston, Powell and Linder families had migrated to the Tombigbee and Alabama River areas in what was then known as Mississippi Territory. Subsequently a portion was formed into Washington Co. Alabama in 1800 and Washington County was further divided to form parts of Baldwin Co. (1809), Clarke (1812). Monroe (1815), Choctaw (1847) and Mobile Co. (1817). As a result of this sub-dividing, we have found records in several counties though the land has been the same.

In 1806 the U. S. Gov't ordered a survey made along the Tombigbee River to show British Patents and other claims. The land of Cornelius Rain is a peninsula projecting into the Tombigbee River at McIntosh Bluff, and south of St. Stephens, Ala. I have a copy of this early map. We have found numerous references to Cornelius Rain(2) (identified in Ala. records as Cornelius Rain, Sr.) which indicates he was a very prominent and highly successful planter. His name appears on many documents which were recorded relating to members of his family or neighbors.

Mrs. Paul McCormick gave me a copy of the following article which appeared in the "Alabama Christian Advocate" in 1956. I think you will find it most interesting.

### **WAYSIDE SKETCHES by Dr. J. M. Glenn**

Union Springs, Ala.

There is always a thrill when a young Methodist preacher starts for his first appointment. Such was the case on the first day of January 1889, when a young preacher, who had come from Marianna, Fla., left Mobile by train for McIntosh, 41 miles away. There he had expected to find a settlement-close to the railroad, but the only structure he found, in any wide field of vision, was very small, with an open front, and there his trunk had been deposited. The departing train left a lonely feeling, especially as there had been very heavy rains, and the late afternoon clouds were lowering. Not knowing that the settlement was two miles from the railroad, he very foolishly had failed to notify anybody that he was coming that day.

#### ***Arriving in Style***

The brightest fact of the occasion was finding at the "depot" a heavy-set, very black colored citizen, named Giles Buford, and his two young sons. Giles informed him that he owned a wagon, some distance away, and he sent his sons for it. When, at length, it came it was seen to be an ox wagon, drawn by two oxen, with only a wood frame on it, but no wagon body. Hastily the trunk was placed on the bare frame. Then the young traveler mounted one end of the trunk, holding the pair of saddle-bags he had bought in Mobile, and the younger boy, at the other end of the trunk, was guarding the valise. The clouds were growing much darker all the time.

The cavalcade set forth, with Giles and his older son splashing along the very watery road, with Giles

cracking his whip, calling to the oxen and speaking volubly about the country. The young preacher who had not notified anybody about his coming, was "arriving" in a more or less triumphal procession.

Reaching the hospitable home of Brother A. F. Hooks, after a slow trip of about two miles, he was found to be absent, but his excellent wife gave a warm welcome. His belongings were transferred to the home, Giles was well paid, and soon the heavy rain came and continued. The young itinerant would not be 20 years old until the following May, though he had received a kind of document from the old Southern University.

### ***Burr's Capture***

Incidentally, that Hooks home (later burned and replaced by a third home there) stood on the site of the (burned) home of Mr. Cornelius Rain, at which home Aaron Burr, former Vice President of the U. S. and his captors from Fort Stoddard took breakfast on the morning of his capture, in 1807. The many travelers along the present Highway 43 may be interested in knowing where he was captured, after skipping his bail in Mississippi, and while trying to reach Spanish territory, only a few miles south of the present Mt. Vernon.

The capture took place on the "old Mobile road," which then ran a little west of the later road which was nearer the present cemetery and a squared-log church, the building of which was superintended by Rev. John G. Rush, about half a century after Burr's capture, and in which I preached two years.

### ***Church much later***

Ridiculous was the statement in a newspaper some years ago that Burr was placed in that church. That church faced the place of his much earlier capture, perhaps about 100 yards from it. This writer, during 1889 and 1890, knew "Uncle Zeno" Orso, then about 80 years old, and Mr. Cornelius Rain had told him directly about the breakfast, so the information is entirely authentic.

Turning to other matters, worthy of remembrance is the old saying, "Destroy not the dreams of thy youth, for the truth is in them." Blessed indeed is any young preacher who goes to his work with the full purpose of serving God and his flocks, instead of considering his own comfort or emolument. If he will do that. God will take care of the future - in both time and eternity.

God's promises do not fail. Speaking in all modesty and humility, a once "young preacher", but now No. 1. on the Alabama Conference roll, has learned that by personal experience.

I do not propose that the foregoing article is an accurate and true account of the capture of Aaron Burr as other accounts give conflicting statements.

Bill and I visited McIntosh Bluff, Ala. in 1964 and saw the old church which was built in 1860., A newer red brick church has been built on the same grounds. We met the minister of the church and he gave me a copy of a memorial booklet which had been published in 1962 on the history of the McIntosh Methodist Church. The authors, the Rev. Marvin L. Heaton and Mr. Sanford Patrick, historian, had thoroughly researched the records to establish the true history of the church from its beginning. The following is copied from their booklet;

### **The First Church at McIntosh**

Let our readers note that although history was being made along here, there seemed to be no recording of this history except at the Annual Conference level. These preachers were much too busy making history to record it. Thus, as the people of McIntosh were having Methodist Preachers and Methodist Meetings, there was no mention of a Church. A church had to exist somewhere and there was a road from Mobile to St. Stephens; there was another road from McIntosh Bluff to Mississippi. These roads crossed somewhere near a place owned by a man named Cornelius Raines. It was in the Raines' home that Captain Gaines had

breakfast after he had spent a rainy night in the old church that stood nearby, when he and his company of soldiers from Fort Stoddard had taken Aaron Burr prisoner.

This incident, along with the establishing of the location and time, has placed a Church some half a mile north and west of where this present Church property is today.

This description of the first Church in McIntosh has been mentioned time and time again by the Rev. J. M. Glenn, who was Pastor here in 1888 and 1889. Brother Glenn has written some ten or more times about a man named "Uncle Zeno Orso," who met him at the railroad station when he rode up from Mobile. Brother Glenn said that Brother Orso lived with the Raines and was present when the Burr incident took place..... So, the facts are not known too clearly but there are enough facts to establish a Church at the crossroads. The name of the Church is known as Tombeckbee Mission.

The present church is located on a ten acre tract of land which was donated by the Rev. John Gassoway Rush and his wife, Glorvina Elvira Johnston Rush, who were the grand-parents of Mrs. Paul McCormick of Mobile.

The 1820 Census of Baldwin Co. Ala. lists C. Rain with 2 white males over 21; 3 white males under 21; 1 white female over 21, 3 white females under 21, 1 free person of colour and 9 slaves. Our family records of the children of Cornelius and Elizabeth indicate that the census accounts for all of them, plus one male over 21, whose identity is not known.

Cornelius Rain(2) and Elizabeth Johnston had;

1. Joyce Rain
2. Margaret Rain
3. Cornelius Rain<sup>3</sup>
4. Daniel C. Rain, b. March 13, 1801
5. Eliza Rain
6. John Rain, b. Nov. 6, 1808

From the Mobile Commercial Register of Oct.11, 1825, we learned of the death of Elizabeth Johnston Rain on Oct. 9,1825;

Died - In the county, on the 9th inst. Mrs. Elizabeth Rain, consort of Mr. C. Rain.

Then we found the following deed recorded in Book H, page 120, Mobile Co. Ala. -

August 27,1827 - Cornelius Rain to Daniel Rain for \$600, sold one block or parcel of land known by the name of Sand Bar Track in Mobile Co., all my right, title and interest and claim to said track forever, reserving at the same time a sufficiency for my own cultivation and self-support during my life and no longer.

Attest; Joseph Johnston                      signed - C. Rain

A. F. Cato

Ezekiel Reeves

It is not known just when Cornelius Rain died but Daniel Rain was appointed administrator of his estate Nov.21, 1842 so he had probably died during that year. (Minutes of the Probate Court, Washington Co. Ala., Book "A", page 92)

Also in Book "A", page 181 - May19, 1845 was the following;

This day, an inventory and appraisal of the estate of Cornelius Rain, deceased, that was returned to the court one or two years since and omitted to be entered, was now presented to the court by Daniel Rain, the

administrator of said estate and ordered received. This being the day set for partial settlement of the accounts of Daniel Rain, the Adm. and appraisal satisfactory, due notice given, etc. it appears \$622.59 has been advanced by D. Rain for use of estate and chargeable against it and allowed.

Following is a brief summary of facts known about each of the children of Cornelius Rain(2) and Elizabeth Johnston:

1. Joyce Rain was married Oct.29,1810 in Washington Co. Ala. To Joseph P. Kennedy (son of Dr. Wm. E. Kennedy). She died in Mobile Co. Ala. on Mar.1, 182?. A pre-marital agreement was recorded Oct. 3, 1810 between Joseph P. Kennedy of the Mississippi Territory and the county of Baldwin on the one part and John Johnston Sr., Daniel Johnston and Cornelius Rain Sr. on the other part, all of the county and territory aforesaid wherein a transfer of slaves was made to John Johnston, Sr., Daniel Johnston and Cornelius Rain, Sr., for the consideration of \$500 cash in hand paid, but Joseph P. Kennedy was to keep possession of the negroes as an agent in trust for the three men. (Deed Book "B", page 205, Probate Records of Baldwin Co. Ala.)

The will of Joseph P. Kennedy was made April 9. 1824 and recorded March 19. 1825 in Will Book I, page 10?, Probate Records of Mobile Co., Ala., wherein he names his wife, Joyce and his children Glovenia,(who later married Robert A. Walker, Nov. 10, 1833, Mobile, Ala.) Oscar P. Kennedy and Mary Louise E. Kennedy. Executors were Joyce Kennedy, Joshua Kennedy (his brother) and Cornelius Rain, Jr. Named guardian of his children were Joshua Kennedy and Samuel H. Garrow. The will was witnessed by C. Rain, Jr., Eliza Rain, and Margaret A. Randall.

1. Margaret Rain married John Elliott on Nov.23, 1818 in Baldwin Co. Ala. We have record of one daughter - Sophia M. Elliott who married Hamilton R. Johnston Feb.28, 1842 in Mobile Co. Ala. On June 21, 1849, Hamilton R. Johnston married second - Kate Owen in Mobile, Ala.
2. Cornelius Rain, Jr. (he would be the 3rd in our direct line) Who he married is unknown as no marriage record has been found. The 1839 Mobile City Directory lists a Cornelius Rain, co-owner with James Maxwell of a livery stable located at 52 Conception St. The 1840 Federal Census of Mobile lists Cornelius Rain and 33 males, 7 females, 2 female slaves living in his "household", five of whom are employed in commerce. So it is obvious that the livery stable had an Inn in connection with it. How unfortunate for us that the 1840 census did not record names of any one except the "head of the household."

Apparently, Cornelius Rain, Jr. was married and had at least one child as the Will of one William Johnston (Will Book II, page 92, Mobile Co. Ala.) dated Oct.8, 1843 and probated Jan. 20, 1844, mentions the love and affection he feels toward the child, Jefferson Rain, son of Cornelius Rain. This will was witnessed by George Lindsay, C. Rain and John P. Johnston.

3. Dr. Daniel C. Rain. The following information was furnished by Mrs. Paul (Erminia Rush) McCormick, a descendant of Daniel C. Rain.

Daniel C. Rain was born March 13, 1801 and died Oct. 23, 1871. His grave is marked by a large marble stone with a Masonic Emblem on it and is located in an old cemetery at Bigbee, Ala. He was married twice.

Daniel married first - Pheriba (Fereby) H. Cato about 1824 and had the following children;

Name	Born about	Married
1. Martha E.	1826	Capt. McHenry Taylor June 25, 1852
2. Margaret (Margie E.)	1827	Thos. Wainwright June 3. 1845
3. Clara	1830	W. M. (Mac) Ainsworth
4. Cornelius	1831	?

5. Benton C.	1833	Hannah Bond Nov. 16. 1857
6. Erminia B.	Dec. 26, 1835	Reuben M. Nash d. Oct. 4, 1875    June 1, 1850
7. Laura J.	1838	1st - Levi Parks, Jan. 19, 1859 2nd - W.H. Boswell. Jul. 30, 1866
8. Alice E.	1841	Wm. S. Grimes Apr. 5, 1856 They moved to Marshall, Tex.
9. Leslie V.	1843	?
10. Florence E.	1845	Unmarried. Also moved to Marshall, Texas.
11. Anna I.	1851	Walter C. Ernest d. Feb 28, 1892    Feb. 22, 1877

Daniel C. Rain married second - Margaret Collier Smith, widow of Thomas Godboldt Smith, H. She was the daughter of Braddock G. Collier and Mary Ann Thompson who were married June 15, 1825.

Margaret Louise Collier (Smith) Rain was born Feb. 28. 1828 and died Jan 25, 1898. She is buried in the Smith Cemetery at Bigbee, Ala. Margaret and her first husband, Thos. Smith, II had seven children; namely, Braddock Collier Smith, Andrew. Erasmus, Thos. III, Sina, Anna and Roeanna.

### **ADDENDA to "THE RAIN FAMILIES"**

September, 1979

Pages B-20 and B-21 .....Re No. 3, Cornelius Rain, Jr.

Dec. 10, 1847 - Letter from "Old Tom" to John Rain wherein he stated that "your brother, Cornelius, is living in New Orleans.

A check of the records in New Orleans revealed the following:

Rains, Cornelius - died Sept. 21, 1849, age 52. buried in Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 in Aisle #8.

New Orleans City Directories«

18-39 - Mrs. Rain - St. Paul St.

1851 - Mrs. Rain - 155 Custom House

1857 - Mrs. Rain - d. 428 Magazine

- J. D. Rain, Clerk Post Office, d. 428 Magazine

- Jeff D. Rain, Clerk Post Office, d. 229 Magazine

- L. Rain , Clerk, d. 428 Magazine

- L. Rain , Clerk, d. 82 Camp

1858 - J. D. Rain - 229 Magazine

- L. W. Rain - 229 Magazine

New Orleans papers (on microfilm in N. O. Public Library)

**Daily True Delta:** JEFFERSON D. RAINS, d. Nov. 13, 1862, burial Nov. 14, 1862, age 30, son of Cornelius Rains and M.A.C. Dupree. Invited are friends and those of J. P. Cady from the residence at 205 Constance St. between Orange and Richard Sts.

**Daily True Delta:** LABUZAN RAINS, d. Monday, Feb. 21, 1859. Friends of family and those of John P. Cady invited to attend services at the residence of his mother on Constance St., between Orange & Richards Sts. Thursday, Feb. 23, 1859 at 4 p.m.

Daniel's children by his second marriage were;

12. Erminia (Queenie) (named for her sister. No.6) b. Sept.20, 1863 d. Jul.27,1935 mar. Oscar S. Rush May 4, 1880

13. Daniel b. 1865 d. Selma, Ala mar. Mattie Sue Barton b. Jul.15, 1871 d. Mar. 13. 1943 Selma . (In 1970 their youngest son) Thomas Collier Raine was living in Mobile, Ala.)

14. Ida P. b. July 26,1868 d. Oct. 1. 1935 mar. 1st-Geo.W.Granade Sept. 23. 1890 2nd-L.F.Rogers

5. Eliza Rain married Henry Bass in Wash. Co. Ala. Sept. 9. 1830

6. JOHN RAIN. born Nov.6, 1808, Washington Co. Ala. died Oct.25, 1868 in Harrison Co. Texas Married EMILY DEWITT HARRIS, on Nov. 15, 1831. Wash. Co. Ala. She was born Nov. 11. 1811 in South Carolina. Parents unknown Died Sept. 15, 1878 in Harrison Co. Texas

Both were buried in the Old Webb Cemetery on the Elysian Fields Road about 5 miles south of Marshall, Texas.

John Rain and Emily DeWitt Harris had the following children?

1. Benjamin C. Rain b» Aug. 31, 1832 Washington Co. Ala.

2. Mary Glorvina Rain b. Maro 17, 1834 "

3. DeWitt Clinton Rain bo July 13, 1836 "

4. John H. Rain bo May 1. 1838 "

5. Henry C. Rain b. Mar. 25, 1840 "

6. Eliza H. Rain (Dolly) b. Jan. 14, 1842 "

7. Josephus E. Rain b. May 12, 1844 "

8. Albert Lister Rain b. Bac. 21, 1851 Harrison Co., Texas

## OLD WEBB CEMETERY

In 1938, Lucille Cubberly Pugh visited this cemetery and reported that the graves of John Rain, Emily, his wife, Benjamin C. Rain, John H. Rain and Josephus E. Rain, sons of John and Emily were located there.

In July, 1962, Bill Redditt located this cemetery near the residence of Cynthia Henderson, a colored woman. Only the following stones were located and part of them were broken off. All were flat on the ground and over-grown with weeds;

Sacred to the memory of  
John H.  
son of  
J. and E. D. Rain  
d. Oct. 28, 1858 - age 20 yrs., 4 mos. 28 days  
On my left reposes my  
younger brother  
Josephus E. Rain  
d. Oct. 2, 1849  
age - 5 yrs. 4 mos. 20 days

Another source reported the following graves had been found there;

Mary Ann  
wife of So C. Stone  
b. 26 June 1816  
d. 4 Sept. 1848

Sacred in memory of  
Josiah D. Lister  
b. July 31, 1784  
d. Aug. 3. 1858  
age 74 yrs. 3 days

Florence Lister  
d. Nov. 11, 1854  
age 1 month, 21 days

Stephen W. Webb  
b. June 6, 1832  
d. Jan. 31. 1868

The Harrison Flag", Marshall, Texas

### "Death of an Old Citizen"

"Mr. John Rain, an old and universally esteemed citizen of this county, died at his residence in the country on last Sunday, the 25th of October. 1868. In his death a kind and affectionate husband and father, good citizen and true Christian gentleman has been called hence."



September, 1979

Dear relatives,

Since starting my family research in about 1963, it was my intent to document all the information possible and make it available to all the Rain descendants.

I gave first priority to establishing our earliest "roots" and spent many, many years searching the earliest records available in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi Territory, Alabama and finally, Texas. Now, seven years after printing the family records. I still haven't given you the story of our ancestor, John Rain, who moved to East Texas about 1848 with his wife, Emily DeWitt Harris, and their seven children. Their-eighth child was born in Harrison County, Texas in 1851. Family tradition and letters have given us many stories concerning the lives of this family and their descendants.

John Rain was born Nov.6, 1808 in Washington Co., Alabama and was apparently the youngest of six children born to Cornelius Rain and Elizabeth Johnston. On Nov. 15, 1831 he married Emily DeWitt Harris in Mobile, Ala. According to Bible and Census records, Emily was born Nov. 11, 1811 in South Carolina. In all these years we still haven't found a single clue to her parentage.

Naturally we wonder why John left Alabama with a large family to settle in Texas. In 1827 his father, Cornelius Rain had transferred a parcel of land known as the Sand Bar Track in Mobile Co. Ala. to his son, Dr. Daniel C. Rain, reserving a sufficiency for his own self-support during his lifetime. Apparently, Cornelius Rain died in 1842 as Daniel was appointed administrator of his father's estate that year. History tells us that a great depression fell upon the people of Alabama (and elsewhere) in the early 1840s and the State Bank failed in 1843. As late as 1845 Dr. Daniel Rain was still filing accounts in behalf of the estate of his deceased father.

Texas had become a state in 1846 and land was available for those who were courageous enough to brave the wilderness of Texas. It appears that John Rain probably received his share of his father's estate in cash and moved to Texas where he could obtain enough land to support his growing family, (see letter dated Dec. 10, 1847 and addressed to John Rain and signed "Old Tom"(Wainwright).

Just how the family of John Rain traveled from Alabama is unknown but it was probably overland by ox cart and/or wagon. One of the migratory trails called The Post Road ran from St. Stephens, Ala. across the present state of Miss. to Natchez, thence to the French and Indian Trading Post at Natchitoches, La.

Aunt 'Berta (Alberta Rain Parker) had told me that John Rain had lived first in either Natchitoches, La. or Nacogdoches, Texas. I had searched records in both areas and found no evidence that any of the Rain men had owned property there.

Then, in 1977, I was in touch with Howard Coghlan, an attorney in Longview and a descendant of Benjamin C. Rain, who was the oldest child of John and Emily Rain. He loaned me some old letters which he had inherited and imagine my pleasure in finding one dated Dec.10, 1847 and addressed to John Rain, Esqr., Fort Jesup, Sabine Parish, Louisiana and signed "Old Tom" (Wainwright)\*.

Apparently John had written for money and "Old Tom" said he could let him have 6 or 7 hundred dollars without sale (probably referring to sale of livestock) but thought it would be best if Jack (John) or Ben came to Alabama after it. But he would try to arrange to send a draft. I think it interesting to note here that Ben was only 15 years old at that time.

Apparently John Rain and his family had traveled to the Military Post at Fort Jesup (near Many, La.) and remained there for some time until he could locate suitable land to purchase. All of this is speculation on my part derived from the few letters and facts available.

We have no idea how the money was sent to John but it is interesting to note that the first two deeds to property purchased in Harrison Co., Texas by John Rain were witnessed by his cousin Albert D. Lister who also purchased land there as did his brothers and also some of the Johnston cousins.

On Jan.3, 1849 John Rain purchased 339,37 acres in the David Earl Survey, Harrison Co., Texas for \$1.00 per acre. Subsequent purchases of land included 100 acres for \$1850 on Nov. 18, 1850; 360 acres at \$1.00 per acre on May 8, 1852; 400 acres for \$300 on Jan.10,1862 - totaling approximately 1200 acres.

### **Home**

According to one of his grand-daughters. Alberta Rain, John Rain's home was built on a rise on the north side of the old Shreveport- Camden Road (now FM #2625) approximately 1/2 mile west of the old home place of D.W.C. Rain. She said it was built of square hand-hewn logs which were dovetailed at the corners. Aunt 'Berta said the house burned but she couldn't recall the year. (Alberta was born in 1882 so it must have been several years later.)

\* Thos. Wainwright married Margaret Rain, the daughter of Dr. Daniel Rain on 3 June 1845. I do not know whether "Old Tom" is this man or his father. He was apparently managing the estate in Alabama for the heirs of Cornelius Rain. A letter in 1858 mentions that Mr. Wainwright and Cousin Margaret had been to Harrison Co. for a visit and expected they would be moving to Texas before long.

John Rain was much loved and respected by the members of his family and his neighbors. He was always called "Jack" and family tradition is that his slaves called him "Marse Jack". Though we know that his father owned some slaves back in Alabama, it is not known whether he had any slaves at all after he moved to Harrison Co.

### **Education**

That John Rain was well educated is well known as evidenced by the beautifully written letters that have been preserved. Some of his grand-daughters told me he was even versed in Latin and Greek. We have no idea where he and brothers and sisters received their education.

Their home at McIntosh Bluff on the Tombigbee River was south of the town of St. Stephens. Washington Academy was established there soon after the town was established and the school's name was later changed to St. Stephens Academy. Or he might have attended one of the schools in Mobile. Perhaps it was there that he met Emily DeWitt Harris. After all, they were married there Nov. 15,

1831. We don't even know where his brother. Dr. Daniel Rain, received his doctor's degree. We don't know how much education his brother, Cornelius Rain- received. We do know that he operated an Inn and Livery Stable in Mobile and later moved to New Orleans, La. With his wife and two sons. The sons, Jefferson D. and Labuzan were listed in the City directories of New Orleans in 1857 and 1858 as Postal Clerks.

Presumably John's sisters, Joyce, Margaret and Eliza received adequate education for young women of their day.

### **Religion**

That John Rain was a man of strong Christian faith is revealed in the many letters he wrote to his son D.W.C. Rain in Uvalde, Texas during the years from 1857 until about 1866. We have been told that he kept his Bible on a shelf just under the dining table top and read selected scriptures aloud to his family prior to every meal. There is evidence from early family records in Alabama that they embraced the Methodist faith, (see page B-18)

John Rain's grand-daughters, Hattie Rain Mitchell and Alberta Rain Parker told me that their father, D.W.C. Rain organized the first Sunday School in the Cross Roads-Blocker community and held class every Sunday in his home. I don't know when the Methodist church at Cross Roads was first organized but many of our family are buried in the cemetery adjoining it. D.W.C Rain was buried there in 1920 and Marinda Pickett Rain in 1921.

Envelope addressed to: JOHN RAIN, Esqr, Fort Jesup, Sabine Parish, Lou. Return address: New Wakefield (Washington Co. Alabama) 10 Dec. 1847.

Dear Jack, I recd a letter from you this evening for the first in about five or six weeks. I have wrote to you some two or three times since I have reed a letter from you. I wrote you how much money I can have for you without sale. That is, 6 or 7 hundred dollars. I will start to Mobile next Thursday morning and I will see what the chance is to send you a draft. But I think you or Ben had better come after it. You wrote to me that I must write to you what the people has made about here. That is a hard question for me to answer for I never go nowhere only in a hurry. Everybody is well about here. That is all I can say. Your brother, Cornelius, is living in New Orleans. Old Tim saw him when he came \_\_\_\_\_. Old Tim has been here about 4 or 5 weeks. He says that he will start up your way in a few days. Old Tim, George and Vaughan is out on a camp hunt now. Notes calves marked and branded 250 or 275 from the best account I can make of them. I must stop now. It is late and I am very tired\* I have been in the woods all day. You must write to me soon again. Now no grass shall grow under my feet until I see you. I will write again before long. Give my best love to all the family and consider yourself the same.

Old Tom

Continuing on the same page was the following letter in a beautiful handwriting:

Dear Aunt,

I wrote to you about two months ago and have been expecting an answer for about a month past but my expectations have failed\* I do not know what could be the cause of your not answering my letter without you never received it or you must be sick. I cant see any other reason. Ma received a letter from you last evening. I was there when she got it I did not have time to read it as it was after sun down and I had to come home by myself.

Amanda has got a fine Daughter it is about five or six weeks old. Tell Uncle Jack I have sean my cow that he gave me she is a fine looking cow and no mistake. Tell Ben and Mary P they must write to me soon. There is more talk of hog stealing going on here than you ever heard. Every one is accusing each other of taking their hogs. I have no news to write. I don't intend to write any more to you until you write to me. You must write as soon as you get this letter. I want to see your all so bad I cant express myself. I must now come to a close as I have wrote all I can think of at present. The neighbours are all well and so am I for the present give my love to all and except the same.

I remain your affectionate

Neace forever

Margaret E. Wainwright

To: Aunt Emily

The above letters in possession of Howard Coghlan, 500 Petroleum Bidg., Longview, Texas (1977)

The following letter in possession of Howard Coghlan, Longview, Texas in 1977.

Letter addressed to: Mrs. Emily D. Rain Glade Springs Harrison Co. Tx.

Return address: New Wakefield (Washington Co. Alabama) 24 Sept. 1849 Peasville Saturday Sept. the 22, 1849

My dear Aunt

According to promise I now seat myself for the purpose of writing to you, but do not flatter yourself with the hope of perusing a very interesting epistle; notwithstanding, I will write every thing of interesting nature that I can think of. Our quarterly in meeting broke up last Monday - there was very little excitement during the time, until the last night when nearly all 'of the members got happy, I was not there but they gave me an account of it the next day; you will perhaps think it strange that they happened all to be together at night but tho' it was not a camp-meeting, George tented on the ground, to avoid, no doubt,

the inconvenience of going back and forth. There were not more than half as many persons present as I expected there would be. Dr. Arrington and Marinda \_\_\_\_\_ were the only persons who joined the church. The Dr. walked up and gave his hand with all the composure imaginable, in fact, he was not the least excited. I was not present when Marinda gave her hand. Pa has had the misfortune to lose two of his horses lately. When he was up the country about two weeks ago one died and on Monday night after quarterly meeting, the other was stolen out of Mr. Wainwright's stable and has not been heard of since. We are consequently left almost without horses, I might say properly entirely without, for we have but one old horse, and he is scarcely rideable so you may easily guess in what a predicament we find ourselves.

Edward \_\_\_\_\_ has been here for several days, he is one of the most agreeable gentlemen I ever met with - he keeps the whole house alive with his fun. A young man from Mobile spent the day here on Tuesday last. We were very much pleased with him, he is very pleasant indeed, I have not seen Sister Margaret for several days, but she and family are well. Her boy can almost walk and is one of the finest looking children I ever saw. Mr. W. and Sister are very proud of him; they think that he is the greatest child that ever lived. Achsah asked about you, and requested me to send her love to you the first time that I should write.

Mr. Vaughan's family are well. I think that he has broken a good deal within the last two or three years, but Aunt Ann looks even younger than when you left. She is very fleshy and weighs a hundred and sixty pounds. Her children are all healthy and fine looking except Emmett who looks rather delicate. His sight has undergone little or no change that I can see.

Mr. V and Aunt A. are very proud of their daughter. Dr. A. and Benton have just brought home a long string of trout, numbering sixteen. I think that you are ungenerous in wanting me to write to you so often without expecting an answer, for you have not so good an excuse for not writing as Ma has, her's is that she cannot write well enough to correspond with anyone, but I am sure that you can, so now, make no more excuses but write as you ought to do, for if you knew the pleasure the perusal of your letters afford me, my dear Aunt, I know you would not refuse to comply with my request. Clara and I went to see our new neighbors the other evening, they are real Irish and no mistake. Tell Mary that Erminia and Virginia are coming out as young ladies and I suppose she is doing the same. We old girls had better get off of the carpet as soon as possible or we will not stand any Chance whatever for S. and V. are both quite handsome. Sis is very large, she weighs one hundred and forty pounds, but Virginia is rather small for her age. Mr. McLeod's family is well. Give my best love to all the family and relations. Write soon and believe me ever,

Your Affectionate niece,

Martha