Austin

Colony

Pioneers

Including history of Bastrop, Fayette, Grimes, Montgomery and Washington Counties, Texas

By Worth S. Ray

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ELIJAH CAPEL - ALCORN FAMILY

The ancestor of the CAPEL FAMILY in WASHINGTON COUNTY was ELIJAH CAPEL; and the ancestor of the ALCORN FAMILY was ELIJAH ALCORN. The two families intermarried. ELIJAH CAPEL & his wife MARY had a daughter AMY, who married THOMAS J. ALCORN, son of ELIJAH ALCORN. The following clippings from the old newspapers throw light on these several relationships:

AMY ALCORN died December 13, 1852 at Independence. She was born in MISSISSIPPI, July 21, 1820, the daughter of ELIJAH and MARY CAPEL; came to Texas with her parents in 1832, and married T. J. ALCORN, ESQ., January 17, 1837. - TEXAS RANGER & BRAZOS GUARD, May 1, 1853, p. 3 col. 1.

ELLIOTT ALCORN was killed on December 20th in his own house by a man named SEIMERS, who was arrested and is now in jail. Mr. ALCORN lived within three miles of Brenham. - TEXAS REPUBLICAN, Feb. 2, 1867, p. 2, col. 7.

JOHN ALCORN died of typhoid fever on June 7th after a painful illness of 22 days. He was the son of ELIJAH and NANCY ALCORN, and was born in FRANKLIN County, Ga., May 20, 1799. He emigrated to Texas with his parents in 1822. For nearly 30 years he endured the dangers and hardships of the frontier. - TEXAS RANGER (Washington) July 14, 1853, p. 2, col. 6.

MARY A. ALCORN, died at Brenham last night, Feb. 27, 1883, wife of Col. THOS. J. ALCORN, aged 75 years. She will be remembered as the widow of Col. FLETCHER HERBERT, and mother of Hon. FRANK HERBERT, both of whom died in Washington County many years ago. - GALVESTON DAILY NEWS of March 1st, 1883, from page 1, column 6.

REV. B. G. CARDEN

REV. B. G. CARDEN was a young minister, who probably attended school at Chappell Hill, where he married a daughter of the pioneer preacher, REV. JOHN H. STONE. His wife was a very young woman at the time of her death and is buried in the old Chappell Hill cemetery near the grave of her father.

GEORGE W. CARLISLE

GEORGE W. CARLISLE is buried in the old Masonic Cemetery at Chappell Hill. He was born, according to the information on his tombstone, March 30, 1856, and died June 16, 1906.

O. P. CARRINGTON

The marriage records of Washington County show that license was issued to O. P. Carrington, April 30 1853 to marry (Miss-Mrs?) A. A. RAINWATER.

F. W. CARROLL

F. W. CARROLL is buried in the old cemetery at Independence. The marker on his grave shows he was born in 1847 and died in 1886.

DOUGLASS B. CARSON

DOUGLASS B. CARSON who died at Chappell Hill in Washington Co., Texas, was certainly an ancient pioneer. He was born in about the year 1780, though the place of his birth and the time of his coming to Texas is unknown. The following notice of his death has been found:

DOUGLASS B. CARSON died in CHAPPELL HILL in the 74th year of his age. - TEXAS STATE GAZETTE, July 29, 1854, p. 359, column 3.

NANCY CARSON married EDWARD GRAVES in Washington County, Texas, October 23, 1856. SAMUEL PRICE CARSON, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence returned to his home in North Carolina to live.
ROBERT MILLCAN

ROBERT MILLCAN, JAMES D. MILLCAN and WILLIAM MILLCAN were among the first Three Hundred Austin Colonists. The town of MILLCAN, on the BRAZOS, in a bend of the Brazos river, was named for this family. It is now a small village, but during the war between the States it was the rallying point for the organization of Southern troops of the Confederacy raised in Texas. By the time the first tax list for Washington County was made up in 1837, ROBERT MILLCAN was deceased, and the records of Washington County show the tax list also shows that to be a fact. The 1837 tax list of Washington County contained the following names of the Millican family:

R. Millican (deceased)
J. D. Millican
D. Millican (Daniel)
WILLIS Millican
W. T. Millican
JOHN Millican
D. L. Millican
ANDREW Millican.

DAN S. MILLCAN shows on the records of Washington County as one of the persons indebted to the estate of the Washington Merchant, COLEBART BAHER in 1837.

While that part of Brazos County in which these Millicans lived afterwards was cut off into a county of that name, the territory in its southern part was a part of the original Washington County as late as 1837, and during the time of the existence of the "Municipality of Washington"

The Washington County records show that:

WILLIS MILLCAN was married in Washington County to ANN ELIZA EVITTES, January 6, 1841. This was probably the EVITTES family from which EVITTES HALEY derived his Christian name.

NANCY MILLCAN was married to WILLIAM L. ELLIS, June 11, 1838.

JOSEPH MIMS

The name of JOSEPH MIMS appears as one of Austin's Colony "first 300".

LEWIS MILLS

The name of LEWIS MILLS appears on the first tax roll of Washington County. And JAMES B. MILLS appeared in the probate Court of Washington County in the month of APRIL, 1837, and asked for letters of administration on the estate of NESTER CLAY. From this it is deducible that the MILLS FAMILY may have been neighbors & possible relatives of the CLAY family at or near the town of Independence.

MARY A. MILLS was married on or about November 6, 1856, in Washington County, to A. F. RAINWATER. The following tombstone inscriptions are copied from the old Masonic cemetery near Brenham:

BETTY B. MILLS, wife of RONALD MILLS, born May 10, 1827; died Feb. 2, 1897.

LOUISE MILLS, born Sept. 21, 1853; died December 21, 1859.

DAVID GRANVILLE MILLS fought at the battle of San Jacinto and is said to have been a cousin of the famous ROGER CHARLES MILLS. He came to Texas with his wife and his brother ANDREW C. MILLS. Both brothers, according to DIXON & KEMP (p. 281) were living in Brazoria County in 1846. They were from DOO COUNTY, Kentucky and may not have been related to the LEWIS MILLS of Washington County.

MINGO FAMILY

There is a marriage record in Washington County, which shows that one C. BONNINGS obtained a license to marry a (Miss) J. MINGO, on March 30, 1847.

MINOR FAMILY

The firm of BURNELL & MINOR were owners of a "Furniture Warehouse" at Washington in November, 1855.
JOHN N. RADFORD

JOHN N. RADFORD obtained a license in Washington County, to marry SUSANNA ARMSTRONG, of the same County, on April 18, 1853.

ELISHA RAINWATER

About one mile North of the town of Brenham, in Washington County, there is an old cemetery. The rainbow shaped sign above what once was the gate or entrance, when I visited it a few years ago was broken and all eschew. The excuse for a road that passed along by it was mostly grown up in weeds, and inside the large enclosure somebody's cattle grazed at will among the old broken down monuments and headstones. The grass inside the cemetery was waist high and the whole plot, consisting of several acres was in a dilapidated condition. A few burial plots were enclosed in iron fence, but sometimes the gates had fallen down. Several monuments had fallen down and lay spread out on the ground, some of them broken into pieces. But there were hundreds of graves here, most of them with some semblance of markers, but nearly all of them were neglected and in appearance, at least, were memory-abandoned. It was a typical example of an old neglected cemetery. But it gave the writer of these lines a positive thrill to find that not all of the inscriptions had been destroyed.

One who has never put his mind to the study of family history, can never realize how rich in interest such old burial places are, to one who has. How much human interest and history lies hidden away in these neglected, weed-grown, stock-grazing cemeteries is not even suspected by the average human. Men pass casually by such places, note some fallen stone or monument, and half-banteringly exclaim, "I wonder what old codger is buried there!" Well, such a person would more fittingly fall to his knees, uncover his head, and return thanks to God for what the "old codger" had done for him and his kind. For it is in just such places that the graves of patriots are to be found. On one of the small plots in this old "Masnic Cemetery" near Brenham I found two legible inscriptions that would be read:

W. J. RAINWATER; born in South Carolina; died Aug. 19, 1887; aged 64 years; 5 months and 22 days.

MARTHA RAINWATER, born in South Carolina, Feb. 26th 1796; died January 8, in 1885.

To the student of such things the dates disclose that these were not husband and wife, because MARTHA was born in 1796, and W. J. was born in 1823, a difference of 27 years. So they were MOTHER and SGN.

At the courthouse in Brenham on the old records I found two items on the Rainwaters:

A. A. RAINWATER (bride) mar - C. P. CARRINGTON, April 30, 1853.
A. F. RAINWATER married MARY C. MILLS, Nov. 6, 1856.

THAT is the sum total of the Washington County record, as this writer found it. Where is the history or the human interest in so brief a record? What is there in these two brief inscriptions and two marriage licenses issued 1853-1856 by the County Clerk of Washington County to arouse interest?

MARTHA RAINWATER died in Brenham, Texas, at the age of 89 years, a venerable old lady, the relit of JOHN RAINWATER, who died in GREENE COUNTY, Georgia, July 22, 1856. Her name had been MARTHA ADAMS and she was the daughter of RICHARD ADAMS, of Spartanburg District, S. C. She was the mother of WILLIAM JASPER RAINWATER, buried on the same plot with her, who was born in 1823, before they left Pendleton District.

JOHN RAINWATER, Martha's husband, was one of the sons of a SOLOMON RAINWATER and his wife RUTH FELTON, who was born in S. C. a long time ago and died about 1815 when he was about 50 years of age. SOLOMON RAINWATER had eight children, one being JOHN and one - ALICE.
In fact the children of SOLOMON RAINWATER and his wife RUTH FELDER were as follows:

1. JOHN RAINWATER m. MARTHA ADAMS.  
2. DILLIE RAINWATER (daughter).  
3. REBECCA RAINWATER m. AARON OLPHANT.  
4. RACHEL RAINWATER  
5. RHODA RAINWATER m. COL.  
6. ARNTER RAINWATER  
7. ASBETH RAINWATER m. MR. MOREHEAD  
8. ELISHA RAINWATER  

ELISHA RAINWATER came to Texas and fought in the battle of San Jacinto. In the annals of that conflict he is simply referred to as "A.R. RAINWATER" by Dixon & Kemp (p. 516).

On that memorable occasion in the thrilling history of Texas independence, when SAM HOUSTON and his little army were ready to attack the mighty SANTA ANNA, it was decided to "burn the bridges behind them." and the famous DEAF SMITH, accompanied by ELISHA RAINWATER, were sent on the volunteer mission to perform that brave duty. They did it. By sundown the fight was at an end and Texas was a free and independent country.

And it was shortly after that when ELISHA RAINWATER’s nieces, nephews and other relatives made their way to Texas and to Washington County. With them came his sister REBECCA’s husband AARON OLPHANT (A. P.) who settled in Brenham (or his son of the same name). With them came MRS. JOHN RAINWATER (Martha) with her brood of children, from GREENE CO., Georgia. JOHN RAINWATER, being the older brother of ELISHA. This JOHN RAINWATER and his wife MARTHA ADAMS had the following children:

1. MARY LOUISA RAINWATER.  
2. ADDISON FRANKLIN RAINWATER.  
3. LOUISA C. RAINWATER, who married JESSE HARRIS.  
4. WILLIAM JASPER RAINWATER, of the old KASNCIC cemetery.  
5. JOHN BAYLESS EARLE RAINWATER.  
6. ISISON RAINSWORTH RAINWATER.  
7. FRANCIS MARIAN RAINWATER.  
8. MILASKE LAPATZETTE RAINWATER.  
9. ADALINE AMANDA RAINWATER.  
10. MARY CLEMENTINE RAINWATER.  
11. GEORGE MILTON RAINWATER.  

ADDISON FRANKLIN RAINWATER, the son of JOHN RAINWATER and his wife MARTHA ADAMS was the one who married Mary C. MILLS in Washington County, 1856; and ADALINE AMANDA RAINWATER, their daughter, was the person who married OLIVER P. CARRINGTON in Washington County in April, 1853. After Carrington’s death she married second, a ROSENA.

All of the children of JOHN RAINWATER and his wife MARTHA ADAMS were the nephews and nieces of the brave ELISHA RAINWATER, who helped DEAF SMITH burn Vince's Bridge, at the battle of San Jacinto.

JESSE HARRIS married LOUISA C. RAINWATER, sister of "W. J.", buried in the old cemetery, and they moved to and settled in BURLESON COUNTY, TEXAS (that part of it, which at one time had been in Washington County.

All of which constitutes the story hidden away in the grass and weeds in the old Masonic cemetery, on two old, old tombstones and their simple inscriptions.

JOSEPH RALSTON

JOSEPH RALSTON died in 1887 and is buried in the PRAIRIE ITA cemetary in the town of BRENHAM. The tombstone inscriptions read:

JOSEPH RALSTON; born June 16, 1820; died Feb. 11, 1887.  

Wife: B. A. RALSTON, died April 18, 1881, age 31 years, 7 months and 28 days.

JOSEPH RALSTON was married to MISS ELIZABETH A. ELGIN, in Washington County, August 28, 1845.

CLEMENT RANEY

CLEMENT RANEY in March, 1837, was made one of the joint executors of the estate of EZEKIEL CAMPBELL which was then being administered, together with JOSIE CULINS.