"Ancestors & Friends: A History and Genealogy"
by Wm. Hesk Crawford, Sr.
1978

SHIRLEY

RAINWATER

CRAWFORD
RAINWATER

The Rev. Hugh Rainwater with Jonathan Wayland and their families came from Alabama to Lawrence Co., Ark., formed in Jan. 1815 as a county in the Missouri Territory. In 1811 the military road was opened from St. Genevieve, Mo. through Ark. to Louisiana. This road crossed Spring River at the Miller ford and those coming into this area used it.

From 1836-1861 the county settled rather fast and we find the Rainwater family living on the road between Smithville and Powhatan and the Wayland family north of the road in the Flat Woods Country. The Weir family settled in the Spring River Country in 1845.

The first Methodist church west of the Mississippi River was supposedly established at Flat Creek by Hugh Rainwater and Jonathan Wayland. Hugh was a circuit rider and never joined the Methodist Conference as Jonathan did. In 1816 William Stuart, who was a devout man, settled on Flat Creek about three miles west of Powhatan. It was his influence and encouragement that caused a church to be organized and a log church built near a spring. Mr. Stuart's home was the home for early Methodist preachers including Rev. Jonathan Wayland and Rev. Hugh Rainwater.

Hugh Rainwater located near the Flat Creek Church in 1849. He was b. 18 Aug. 1814 in N. C., d. 18 April 1874. His wife Sarah (Sary) Rainwater, b. 11 Dec. 1819, Ala., d. 3 April 1875. They were buried in their yard on the bank of Flat Creek. [McLeod, Walter E. History of Lawrence County, 1963].

Their children:

1. Marion Rainwater m. Nancy Phillips
2. **Riley Gilmore Rainwater m. Nancy Oldham**
3. Jasper Rainwater m. Clementine Gattiz
4. Thomas Rainwater m. Dolly Combs
5. Nancy Rainwater m. Dr. Thomas Guthrie
6. Adeline Rainwater m. John Cross
7. Elviria Rainwater m. Mat Lindsey
8. Sarah Rainwater m. Joseph Phillips

Riley Gilmore Rainwater, b. 21 June 1846, Ala., d. 11 July 1918, m. Nancy Oldham, b. 6 May 1848, Ark., d. 15 Nov. 1913. She was from Oklahoma.

**II.** Thomas Henry Rainwater, b. 24 Feb. 1866, Imboden, Ark., d. 24 Dec. 1964, m. 4 Sept. 1887, Margaret Elizabeth Weir, b. 26 June 1869, d. 6 Jan. 1961. They are buried at Walnut Ridge, Lawrence Co., Ark.

The grandparents of Margaret Elizabeth were James Adams Weir, b. 5 Sept. 1819, N. C., d. 1 Nov. 1896 and Sarah Elizabeth Sloan, b. 13 Aug. 1820, N. C., d. 23 May 1885. They m. 2 Sept. 1841, N. C. and came to Lawrence Co., Ark. in 1845. Children:

(1) John Hamilton Sloan Weir, b. 14 Sept. 1842, N. C., d. 9 Jan. 1912, m. 15 Jan. 1868, Thursa Jane Moore. Her father, Robert Moore, was a minister in Tenn.
(2) James Wilson McNight Weir, b. 14 Sept. 1842, twin, d. 28 Dec. 1921, m. 8 Aug. 1866, Mary Cravens.
(3) George Franklin Weir, b. 9 Jan. 1846, d. 5 Nov. 1903, m. 12 Sept. 1871, Martha Jane Smith.
(4) Julia Ann Weir, b. 9 Jan. 1846, twin, d. 7 Oct. 1865
(7) Robert Smith Weir, b. 21 May 1853, d. 4 April 1872
(8) Burette Southworth Weir, b. 27 Dec. 1856, d. 2 July 1935, m. 7 June 1883, Eudora Perry.

The parents of Margaret Elizabeth Weir were John Hamilton Sloan Weir and Thursa Jane Moore, b. 9 Sept. 1847, d. 26 June 1918. Their Children: Margaret Elizabeth; Robert Sloan, b. 16 Oct. 1872, d. 12 Oct. 1943; Mary Louise, b. 29 Jan. 1875, d. 21 April 1957; Alfred Taylor, b. 6 Sept. 1876, d. 11 Mar. 1881; Charles Burette, b. 7 Sept. 1878, d. 27 July 1957; Moses Morris, b. 19 July 1880, d. 29 Oct. 1969; Clay Cleveland, b. 6 Sept. 1884, d. 3 Apr. 1952; and Laura Bell Weir, b. 22 Jan. 1886.

2. Viola Rainwater m. Rufus Smith
3. Hugh McGuire Rainwater m. Mary Louise (Lou) Weir
4. Mary Wess Rainwater m. Robert Sloan Weir
5. Zelbith (Zilla) Rainwater m. Charles Burette Weir
6. Charles Freeman Rainwater m. Bertie Washum

Note that four of the John Hamilton Sloan Weir children married children of Riley G. Rainwater and wife Nancy.

Children of Thomas Henry Rainwater and Margaret Elizabeth Weir:

(1) Bertha Rainwater, b. 25 July 1888, m. 3 July 1925, George Kent, a school teacher, d. 12 Mar. 1957. No children.

(2) Robert Orville Rainwater, b. 15 Dec. 1890, d. 2 Aug. 1967, buried in Little Rock, Ark. with wife, m. Elizabeth (Lizzy) Wilson, d. 10 Nov. 1976. Children:
   a. Robert Orville Rainwater, Jr. m. Margaret. They have a dau. Jerry.

(3) Riley Sloan Rainwater, b. 28 Nov. 1892, m. Virginia Hetcher.
   a. William Sloan Rainwater, Jr. m. Sylvia Spikes.


(5) Juddie Isey Rainwater, b. 11 Apr. 1897, d. 8 July 1966, m. Otis
Agnes Linden, d. 24 Nov. 1968. They are buried in Little Rock, Ark.

Children:


b. Justin Rainwater m. Shirley Smith. Daus.: Sayle and Suzanne Rainwater.

c. Annie Rose Rainwater m. Kermit Coney. Sons: Delayne and David Coney.

(6) Dr. Elmer Hubert Rainwater, b. 31 Jan. 1899, m. 1st, June Childress and they were divorced in 1943. Children: Toniny Rainwater m. Virginia Rolls. They had sons Bruce and Brian Rainwater; Jerry Lynn Rainwater m. W. D. (Vince) Hollscher, children, Sharra, Cathy and Steven Hollscher. Dr. Elmer H. Rainwater m. 2nd, Dorothy Nerud. They had daus. Dorothy and Mary Alice Rainwater. He is a prominent eye doctor in Springfield, Mo.

(7) Nell Rainwater, b. 6 Apr. 1901, m. 8 Nov. 1924, R. Glen Barger, d. 27 Apr. 1958, buried at Walnut Ridge, Ark. Glen worked for the railroad at Poplar Bluff, Ark.

a. Bettye Glen Barger m. Charles Nickell. He is a teacher and athletic coach and she is a teacher. Nell lives with them at Nacogdoches, Tx. Children: Charles Glenn Nickell m. 20 Aug. 1978, Dona Griffith of Annapolis, Md. He is a 1978 graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy. He graduated with honors; and Larry Thomas Nickell m. 12 Aug. 1978, Mary Scarborough of Dallas, Tx. He is a student at Austin College, Sherman, Tx.

(8) Charles Clifford Rainwater, b. 10 July 1903, m. Louise Stewart. He has owned and operated an insurance agency in Monroe, La. for many years.

a. Patricia Joe Rainwater m. Johny Johnson. They adopted Gayine and William (Bill) Johnson.

b. Louis Rainwater m. Wiena Children: Stacy, Sharon, Steve, Sarah, Scott and Shan Rainwater.

(9) Vera Rainwater, b. 14 July 1905, m. Albert George Gunner who was employed by Commercial Trust Bank of Kansas City, Mo. He was killed 11 Jan. 1945 in the Battle of the Bulge, World War II and is buried in Henri Chapel in Belgium. Son: Larry Albert Gunner m. Anis Emily Baetz.

**(10) Luther Clay Rainwater, b. 2 Oct. 1907, Imboden, Ark., m. 1st, Ethel Henrietta Thudium.

(11) Opel Rainwater, b. 29 Nov. 1909, m. Richard Reid Norton. They have a dau., Phyllis Norton.
Kalde; Mathew Thedium; Rose Thedium m. Phillip Meyer, children, Aurther and Fred; Ann Thedium m. Ed Moesline.

The children of Frederick Thedium and Rosina Kervil:

(1) Bertha Thedium, b. 1885, d. in infancy of diptheria.
(2) Frederick Thedium, Jr., b. 1887, d. in infancy of pneumonia.
(3) Maine Thedium, b. 1889, d. 1892
(4) Irene Bertha Thedium, b. 1893, d. 1920's, never married.
(5) Edna Clara Thedium, b. 1895, d. 1976, m. 1st, and had one child Robert Eugene, b. 1925, m. 2nd, Charles Newton Thomas, Jr., and had a son, Tommy Thomas, b. 3 Oct. 1926. Robert Eugene was adopted by Charles N. Thomas. He m. Annette Kook, b. 1922.
(6) Ruth Irene Thedium, b. 1900, m. Mr. Brann.
(7) Ethel Henrietta Thedium, m. Luther Clay Rainwater.

Rememberances of Ruth Thedium Brann in 1977: Frederick and Rosina Thedium lived in St. Louis, Mo. in the late 1800's. He was a supervisor with the St. Louis school system and they owned two "flats." Frederick had a desire to be a farmer and in 1900 they moved to Arlington, Mo. for a short time. The land was poor and the family moved to Manchester, Va. in 1901.

They first rented a place and in 1902 Frederick purchased land with timber and sawmill. Their first house had two rooms, but later a larger house was built with hardwood floors which were a rarity at that time. One room was large enough for dances to be given by the teenage girls.

In 1810 mother Rosina had an attack of appendicites and developed peritonitis. When told she had only a short time to live she asked to return to St. Louis. Frederick sold the land and most of the family possessions and they returned to St. Louis where Rosina died in 1911. She is buried at St. Mathews cemetery in St. Louis.

When they returned to St. Louis Frederick purchased a shoe store on Cherokee St. and the family lived in an apartment over the store.

In 1912 Frederick Thedium sold his store in St. Louis left his three daughters with his sister Mary Reisch and moved to Clifton, Arizona. He ran a store for Mr. Franz at a silver mine.

Frederick Thedium died in 1917 during an influenza epidemic and is buried in St. Mathews Cemetery, but not in the same plot with wife Rosena. He was a Mason.

Luther Clay Rainwater was involved with insurance related business most of his life. He and Ethel lived in Hamilton, Ohio; Wooster, Ohio; Arlington, Va.; and Dallas, Tx. Ethel was a teacher.

Children of Luther Clay Rainwater and Ethel Henrietta Thedium:

(1) Shirley Rainwater, b. 13 June 1933, Wooster, Ohio, m. 27 Aug. 1954, Dallas, Tx., William Lusk Crawford, Jr.

Shirley's parents moved to the Washington, D. C. area in 1937 and she attended the Arlington, Va. public schools through the fourth grade. In 1943 they moved to University Park, Tx. She attended the Highland Park High School, graduating in 1951. She was active in the chorus and mural activities. She worked on the yearbook staff and was a member of the Hi Lites service club. She entered SMU and received a B. S. degree in Elementary Education in 1954 with a minor in Geography and Home 378
Economics. She was president of the Iota Epsilon, home economics sorority and also a member of KIRKOS service organization. She was a nominee for freshman football queen and Air Force ROTC queen. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta social sorority and served as social chairman.

She has taught in the Dallas, Richardson and Greenwood public school districts. (SEE PAGE 285).

(2) Joyce Rainwater, b. 16 Aug. 1935, Wooster, Ohio. She was very prominent in high school tennis winning the Texas State Doubles in 1953. Joyce is a graduate of Highland Park High School and Southern Methodist University with a B. S. degree in 1957 in Physical Education. She taught for several years in the Highland Park Public Schools, Dallas, Texas and since 1966 has been at Hockaday School, Dallas, Tx. She recently entered the restaurant business and has restaurants at South Padre Island, Tx. and Galveston, Tx. She spends the summers at her home on South Padre Island, Tx.

Luther Clay Rainwater married (2) 26 Dec. 1959, Donnis Lucille Davidson, b. 7 Feb. 1921, dau. of William Arthur Davidson, b. 27 Oct. 1888, St. Johns, Kansas, d. 29 March 1971, Springfield, Mo. and Maude Ruby Marney, b. 16 Nov. 1895, McDonald City, Mo. The parents were m. 14 Nov. 1915. Maude m. (2) 1 June 1977, Keller L. Sappington.

Lucille attended Drury College, Springfield, Mo. 1940-42 and graduated from Washington Univ. School of Nursing, St. Louis, Mo., 1945. She received a degree in nursing. She worked as a nurse until 1957 when she began working for the U. S. District Court, Dallas, Tx. Following her marriage to Luther Clay Rainwater she assisted him in his business until his death. They had no children.

******

#377