

Descendants of Richard Rainwater

By James M. Jordan

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As one story goes, two Rainwater brothers, John and William, emigrated from Germany around 1709. Another says John Rainwater was born about 1695 near Danbury, Virginia and he married in Surry County, North Carolina on 6/24/1735. How could John have been born in Virginia if he emigrated from Germany? Many researchers believe that all Rainwaters descend from John and William. But I know of other Rainwaters that have not been “linked” into this family and may well descend from other ancestors.

Who were these early Rainwaters? We know for fact that John Rainwater of Edgecombe Precinct sold land in 1742 to William Rainwater and that this land had originally been patented to John in 1739.¹ We also know that a Robert Rainwater came to America in 1706 in King William County, Virginia as an indentured servant.² It is probably safe to say that Robert Rainwater was born between 1670 - 1700 (6 - 36 years old). Nothing more is known about this Robert Rainwater as he has never been found in any of the early census or patent records except perhaps in the 1790 Federal Census for South Carolina in the 96-District, Spartanburg County.^{1,3,4} If this is the same Robert Rainwater he would be VERY old and as such, this is unlikely. However, it is possible that this Robert Rainwater is related in some way to Robert Rainwater - indentured servant. Living near Robert Rainwater in the 1790 South Carolina census are John Rainwater and a Thomas Reinwater. These families do not seem to be directly related to the John and William Rainwater descendants shown in the 1790 North Carolina Census. Could these three be brothers and descendants of the first Robert Rainwater?

As we move to the 1800 Federal Census for South Carolina, Thomas Rainwater is no longer found, but instead we find a Richard Rainwater in Chesterfield County. Based on this census, Richard was born before 1755 and only one other male, between the ages of 10 and 16 (b 1790-1784) is in his household. Living *right next door* to Richard is Jeße Rainwater, which is shorthand for Jesse. Jesse Rainwater is shown as being already married and between the ages of 26-45 (b 1774-1755). No other Rainwaters reside in Chesterfield County, however several others can be found in Spartanburg County, including a John and Robert Rainwater, and a Solomon Rainwater in Pendleton County, South Carolina.⁵ I believe, *and I have no proof*, that Jesse Rainwater is the son of Richard Rainwater and the son listed in the household of Richard is Richard Rainwater Jr., who later moves to Alabama with Jesse Rainwater.

By the 1810 Federal Census for Chesterfield County, South Carolina, Richard and Jesse Rainwater cannot be found, but in their stead is a William Rainwater, between the ages of 25-45 (b 1785-1765).⁶ This William may have claimed the land from Richard and Jesse. Robert Rainwater is no longer found in Spartanburg County. Also, William Rainwater has one male in his household 10-16 (b1800-1794). Possibly related to Richard and Jesse?! NO RAINWATER IS FOUND IN CHESTERFIELD COUNTY AFTER 1810 SC CENSUS! Did this William go to Alabama too after 1810?! A William Rainwater serves as a juror in Clarke Co. AL in 1819. While digging in the Alabama State Archives I found in the Confederate Records:

William Rainwater Co. I, 36th AL Infantry

Pvt (age 54)
Jones Co., MS
Muster Roll May 13th, 1862, Mt Vernon Aresnal

This William Rainwater would have been born about 1808!

Let me provide some perspective on current events in the lower half of our country around 1800. In 1795, the Treaty of Lorenzo was struck with Spain and they agreed to withdraw to the 31 degree line leaving land to the United States in the South. In 1798, the United States then created the Mississippi Territory which included this area. At that time, only two population centers existed in the Mississippi Territory, Natchez on the Mississippi River, and the Tombigbee Settlements at the forks of the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers. On June 4, 1800, the Mississippi Territory was divided into three counties - Adams, Pickins and Washington, from the Natchez District west of Pearl River and the Tombigbee or Mobile District east of Pearl River. At that time, there were only about 1000 white inhabitants of Washington County, with over half of these residing in what is now the state of Mississippi.

The State of Georgia relinquished all claims to lands in Alabama and Mississippi in 1802. In 1804, the Mississippi Territory effectively included major portions of the present states of Mississippi and Alabama. However, with the Spanish still in control of the Gulf Coast, the territory was land locked, and its white settlers were required to pay heavy tariffs to get their goods through the ports at Mobile and Pensacola.

The settlement growth in the southeastern portion of the Mississippi Territory was severely hampered because the area was completely surrounded by hostile Indians. This problem was partially alleviated when the United States obtained an agreement with the Creek Indians to cut a road from Georgia across their land to the Tombigbee Settlements. This road, which became known as the Federal Road, entered the present state of Alabama near where Columbus, Georgia now stands and ran west to the present location of Montgomery. From there it ran southwest along the divide that separates the water sheds of the Alabama and Conecuh Rivers to the Tombigbee settlements. This was the only road across the Creek nation prior to 1817, therefore most of the early settlers from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia traveled this road. Nearly all the military forts and the early settlements in south Alabama were located along its path.

We now know that Richard Rainwater and his son Jesse Rainwater moved to Alabama between 1800 and 1805.⁷ Richard, now in his 60's, and son Jesse Rainwater, likely traveled this road to St. Stephens, Alabama which is located on the Tombigbee River in present day Washington County, Alabama. However, I have not been able to locate any reference to passes issued by the Governor of Georgia which was usually required to get through the Indian territory along this Federal Road. They were apparently the first Rainwater's to migrate to present day Alabama. Shown in the figure is a map of the Tombigbee River showing locations of St. Stephens, Ft. Mims, Ft. Stoddard and residents in 1805. Jesse Rainwater is known to have settled along Tawler's Creek, near an open area in the creek (see land plat).

1805
Alabama

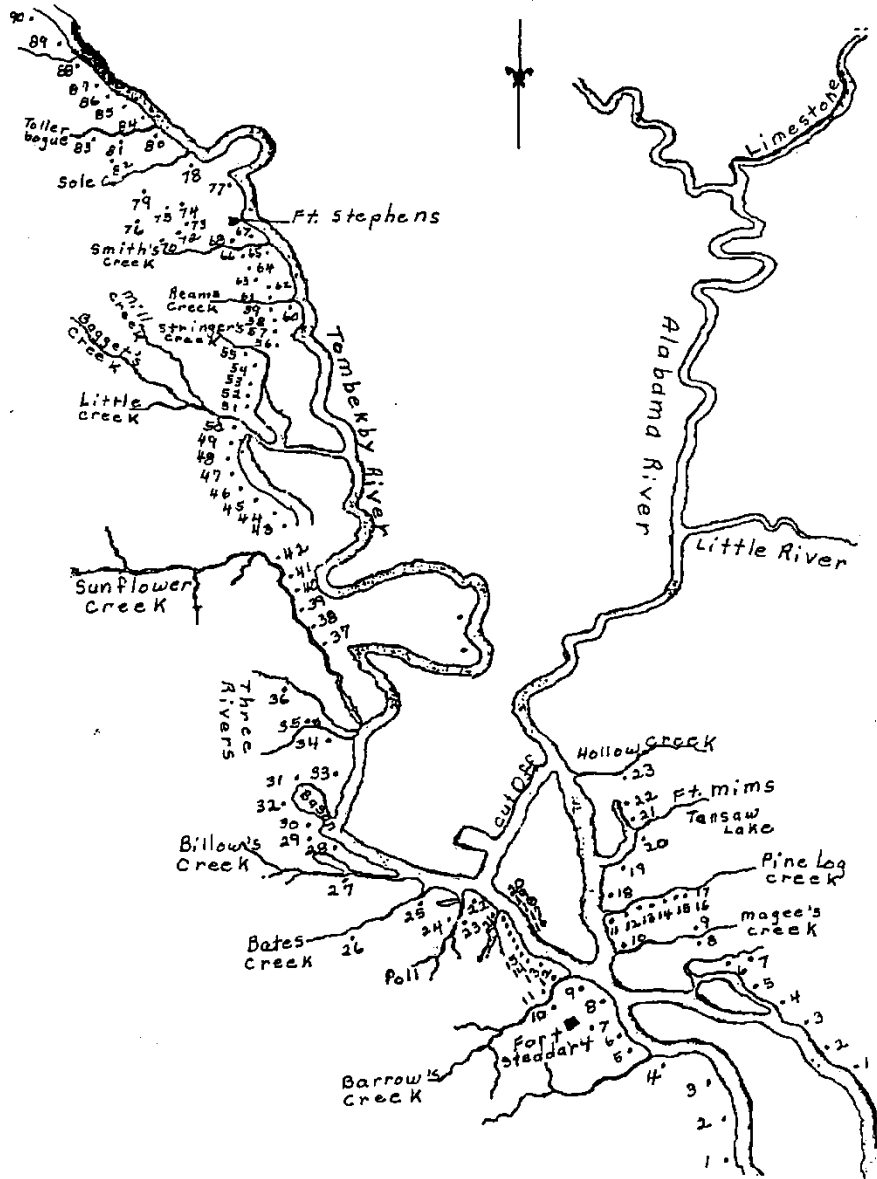


Figure 1 - 1805 Map of the Tombigbee Settlements



Figure 2 - Land Plots near St. Stephens, Washington County, AL about 1820.

Jesse Rainwater very quickly became involved in the democratic process in St. Stephens, Alabama by serving numerous times as a juror. The first time he is mentioned is in July 1807 where he is listed as a free holder or permanent house holder available for jury duty. The names of 112 people were put into a box and 36 names were drawn to serve as jurors in the next term of Superior Court. Jesse was not chosen in this first draw. In May of 1808, Jesse was selected to serve on the Grand Jury in Washington County and then again in September of 1808.⁸

The 1808 Census for Washington County in the Mississippi Territory lists Jesse Rainwater's household with 2 males over age 21 (I believe Jesse and his father Richard), 1 male under 21 (Wesley), 1 female over 21 (Mary Madora - Jesse's wife), 3 females under 21 (unknown) and 2 slaves. Also listed in this census is a Richard Rainwater whom I believe to be the brother to Jesse and son of Richard Sr. listed in the 1800 South Carolina Census.⁹ The fact that Jesse Rainwater was a slave owner suggests that he had some modest wealth and was not a poor pioneer settler.

In June 1809, Richard Rainwater served on a Jury for 2 different cases. In October 1810, Richard Rainwater was one of 108 men listed as freeholders eligible for Jury duty.⁸

By the 1810 Mississippi Territory Census for Washington County, the household for Jesse has changed to reflect what I believe is the death of his father - Richard Sr. Richard Jr's household has decreased by 2 males and 3 females under 21 and they now have 1 slave.¹⁰ Could this reflect the departure of another family that traveled with the Rainwater's from South Carolina to the Mississippi Territory?

Richard Rainwater was commissioned March 10, 1810 as an Ensign in the 6th Regiment of the Washington County Militia.¹¹

In August 1811, Jesse Rainwater was sworn in as Grand Juror for a special session of Superior Court held at St. Stephens.¹² Then again in March of 1812, he served as a juror in Superior Court held at Rodney.⁸

During the War of 1812, the English and Spanish had engaged Tecumsah, the Shawnee Chief, to incite the Creek Indians to fight the white settlers in south Alabama. This brought about the Indian War with the first major battle being fought near Burnt Corn Creek, in present day Conecuh County, Alabama in July 1813. Richard Rainwater had moved across the Tombigbee River into Clarke County by 1813.¹³

One month later, Fort Mims on the Alabama River was attacked by Indians and all but about 50 of the fort's 553 inhabitants, including women and children, were killed. This led to the systematic destruction of the Creek Indian Confederacy in Alabama by General Andrew Jackson and his army from Tennessee, which culminated at the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend. A treaty was signed on August 9, 1814 when the Creeks ceded all their lands in the Mississippi Territory west of the Coosa River and east of Tombigbee.

In the summer of 1996, I found in the Chatom, Alabama court house, the county seat for Washington County, a document that contained a "*List of Families in Washington County Entitled to aid under the acts of Legislature providing for the relief of the families of Indigent Soldiers absent in the army.*"

<i>Name of Volunteer</i>	<i>No in Family</i>	<i>Year's Support</i>
<i>Jesse Rainwater</i>	<i>7 P.S.</i>	<i>150.00</i>

This would mean that Jesse Rainwater served either in the War of 1812 or in the Indian War and was away from home (up to a year) leaving 7 members of his family behind. The document was not dated.

In March of 1814, Jesse Rainwater was selected to serve as a juror for Superior Court. In St. Stephens on September 20, 1815, Jesse was selected again to serve as a juror.⁸

The St. Stephen's Land Office records show that Richard Rainwater & William Murrell purchased land in Clarke County in November of 1815, range 9, township 1W.¹⁴ Then again, in February 1816, R. Rainwater, Wm. Murrell, M. T. Grantham & Thos. Figures purchased land in Clarke County, range 9, township 1W.¹⁵ The 1816 Census for the Alabama Territory lists Jesse

Rainwater in Washington County and Richard in Clarke County. Richard's household lists 4 males over 21, 1 male under 21, 1 female over 21, 2 females under 21 and no slaves.¹⁶

In Superior Court records for March 1816, Jesse Rainwater was one of 12 men listed as having served as a Grand Juror for 3 days.⁸ In September 1816, Jesse served on a jury that heard a contested will, and the case of the Mississippi Territory vs John Philips for Petit Larceny.⁸ In the latter case, the jury ruled John Philips guilty of the value of the bridle, \$2.00. He is listed on 5 other cases heard during this period including one for assault with intent to kill - they found the prisoners not guilty. Also during this period, Richard Rainwater and Moses Pickering were brought to court by George Buchanan. The jury ruled against Richard Rainwater and they had to pay \$16.00 plus court costs.⁸

On March 1, 1817, an act of Congress created the Alabama Territory out of the Mississippi Territory, with the Capitol located at St. Stephens in Washington County.

Jesse Rainwater served again as a juror for Superior Court in St. Stephens in March 1818.⁸ He is listed a juror in 6 cases ranging from Assault and Battery to Slander.

In March of 1819, Richard Rainwater and Nancy Rainwater (his wife?) give a Deed of Conveyance to Leonard P. Rush and Henry Franklin for purchase of land near Coffeerville in Clarke County. This deed was witnessed by Thomas Figures and James Brunson.¹⁷ Coffeerville is located along the Tombigbee River north of St. Stephens and right across from Choctaw County. Also in March of 1819, Richard and Nancy Rainwater deed to Joseph Williams, Abner Turner, William Murrell, Robert Duglass & James Bowman for \$2 for one acre of land in Coffeerville for a church - witnessed by Wm. Murrell and Alfred Thompson.¹⁸ *On May 3, 1819, the US Congress authorized citizens of the Alabama Territory to form a state.*

Of interest too is a reference to a William Rainwater that served on a Jury in Clarke County in November of 1819. Possibly a son of Richard?¹⁹

On December 14, 1819, President Monroe signed the resolution making Alabama the 22nd State in the Union.

Richard Rainwater, Robert Douglas and John E. Hill were appointed to a committee to divide a tract of land known as Mitchell's Reserve in January of 1820, as requested by Juble B. Hancock.²⁰ From Probate records, Richard Rainwater, George Steed, Thomas Figures, William Murrell, Joseph Williams, G. B. Taylor and J. B. Hancock received claims on the Estate of L. J. Bush.²¹ Possibly the father-in-law of Richard Rainwater?

The 1820 Census for Washington and Clarke County, Alabama were lost to fire. No Rainwaters are found in the 1820 Mississippi Census. By the 1830 Census, Richard Rainwater is no longer found in Alabama, but is found in Covington County, Mississippi.²² Jesse Rainwater remains in Washington County, Alabama with a household of 1 male under 5 (George), 1 male 5-10 (John J.), 1 male (Green) and 1 female (Martha?) 10-15, 1 male (Wesley) and 1 female 15-20 (Lavena?), 1 female 20-30 (Lucinda?), 1 female 40-50 (wife-Mary), and 1 male 50-60 (Jesse).²³

I am uncertain of the DOB's for the females listed in Jesse's household and they don't seem to match up with the three listed in the 1808 Census.

According to the Old St. Stephens Land Office records, Jesse and Wesley Rainwater purchased land in Monroe, County, Alabama in March of 1835.²⁴ In the 1840 Census²⁵, Jesse Rainwater is listed in Washington County right next door to Green Rainwater:

	(<5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60)															
	males							females								
Rainwater, Jesse	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rainwater, Green	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Wesley Rainwater cannot be found and may have been missed as a result of their land dealings in Monroe County. Lucinda is not listed in Jesse's household as she married in June of 1832 and Lavena married in July of 1835, which would leave only Martha. The lone male in Jesse's household is John J. Rainwater.

The 1850 Washington County, Alabama Census lists the following families:

Rainwaters, Jesy	76, <i>born in NC</i>	Farmer	495
Mary	65, <i>born in NC</i>		
John J.	25, <i>born in AL</i>	Farmer	
Milledge	6, <i>born in AL (John's son)</i>		
Rainwater, Wesley	38, <i>born in AL</i>	Farmer	
Elizabeth	24, <i>born in AL</i>		
Jessy	10, <i>born in AL</i>		
Harriet	8, <i>born in AL</i>		
Aury	6, <i>born in AL</i>		
Albert	5, <i>born in AL</i>		
Margaret	4, <i>born in AL</i>		
Exer	3, <i>born in AL</i>		
Mary	1, <i>born in AL</i>		
Rainwater, Green	30, <i>born in AL</i>	Farmer	
Hetta	30, <i>born in AL</i>		
Edwin	11, <i>born in AL</i>		
Jane	9, <i>born in AL</i>		
Moses	7, <i>born in AL</i>		
July	5, <i>born in AL</i>		
Madora	3, <i>born in AL</i>		

Other Rainwater's in 1850 AL Census:

Fayette Co	Richard Rainwater
	Silas M. Rainwater
	Miles Rainwater
Mobile Co	John Rainwater
Marion Co	John F. Rainwater
Cherokee Co	Irwin Rainwater
Marion Co	Elkaney Rainwater

Were Jesse Rainwater and his wife both born in North Carolina? By the 1790 North Carolina Census, Jesse would have been about 18 years old, and yet he nor his father Richard Rainwater Sr. are listed.

Jesse owned a significant amount of real estate in 1850 valued at \$495. He was a farmer and his son John was living at home. I don't know anything about John's first marriage, but apparently it was over by 1850 as he and his son Milledge are living with Jesse and Mary Rainwater. Wesley and Green Rainwater did not own any real estate listed in the Census.

Is the Richard Rainwater in the 1850 Alabama Census the same Richard - brother to Jesse? No, this Richard is 26 years old.

On July 18, 1855, Wesley & Elizabeth Rainwater sold to Jesse Rainwater land in Section 24, Township 7, Range 1 West.²⁶ Wesley and Elizabeth signed with an "x" so they obviously could not write.

On May 10, 1856, Jesse Rainwater sold to "my son" John Rainwater, Fractional Sections of 24 and 41, Township 7, Range 1 East and signed the document himself.²⁷

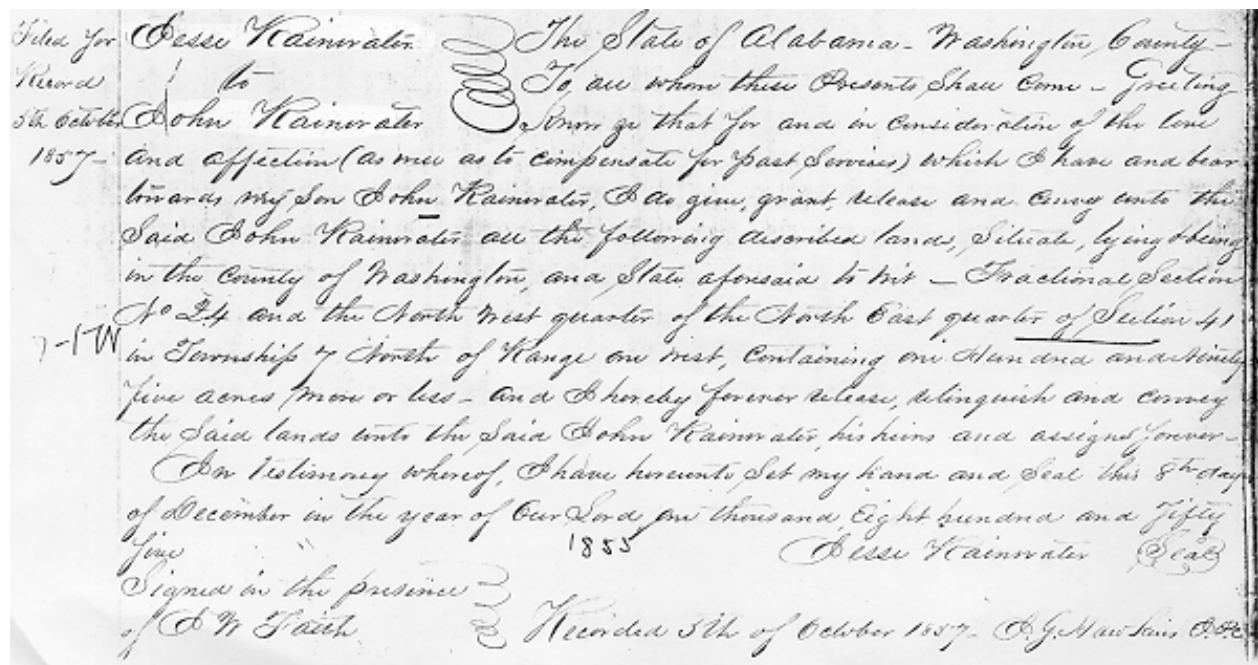


Figure 5 - Land record showing sale of land by Jesse Rainwater to John Rainwater.

Filed Wesley Rainwater & } This indenture made and entered into
August Elizabeth Rainwater } on this the 18th day of Aug in the year
27-1853 to } of Our Lord One Thousand and Fifty five
Jesse Rainwater } between Wesley Rainwater and his wife
Elizabeth Rainwater of the first part and Jesse Rainwater of
the second part Witnesseth - That for ^{and in} consideration to them
in hand paid by the said second party the receipt whereof is
hereby acknowledged the said party of the first part hath
bargain granted sold and conveyed, and by these presents
doth bargain grant sell and convey unto the said party of
the second part all the right title and interest held and
owned by them in and to the following lot - viz Section

7-1 9th Section No 24 in Township Seven North of Range One West
To Have and To Hold unto the said second party his heirs
and assigns forever And the said first party for themselves
this heirs and assigns forever relinquishes releases and conveys
unto the said second party all interest heretofore held in
and to the above described tract of Land
In testimony whereof the said
parties of the first part hath hereunto set their hands and
seals the day and year above written

Wesley Rainwater
Elizabeth Rainwater

Figure 4 - Land record showing sale of land by Wesley Rainwater to Jesse Rainwater.

Jesse Rainwater died in Oct. 1860 at the age of 88 of old age.²⁸ In December of 1860, Wesley & Elizabeth Rainwater sold to John W. Baker, Section 5 & 6, Township 7, Range 1 West.²⁹

From the Record of Inventories, Book B, Washington Co., AL, pgs 4, 7 8, 33 34, and 48 we find the settlement of the estate of Jesse Rainwater by his children as follows:

pg 3-4

To the honorable Daniel James, Judge of the Court of Probate in and for the County of Washington: The petition of Wesley Rainwater and Green Rainwater, who are over the age of twenty one years and inhabitants of this state, respectfully show that Jesse Rainwater departed this life in this County intestate, several days since, being the first day of November, 1859, leaving property in this State, of the value of about three hundred (300) dollars, and not more, to the best of petitioner's knowledge and belief; which property consists principally of one horse and household furniture, and which requires that same persons should be immediately appointed, to take charge of, collect and preserve the same, to prevent unnecessary loss and waste thereof, until such time as letters of administrations can be issued in due course of law. Your petitioners further state that said property is liable to be squandered by some person who is now, as your petitioners believe, is trespassing on the same, and for as much as your petitioner's are interested in said, as two of the next of kin of said deceased, and therefore, naturally solicitors, that said estate should go. ? from as much as al possible, your petitioners,

pray, that some suitable person as appointed Special Administrator of said Estate, to charge of, and preserve the same, as aforesaid and your petitioners will pray re. Subscribed and sworn before me this 7th day of November, 1859, Daniel James, Judge Filed November 7th, 1859. Recorded November 26th, 1859. Daniel James Judge. Signed by mark: Wesley and Green Rainwater.

pg 7

*To the honorable Daniel James, Judge of the Court of Probate in and for the County of Washington: The petition of Wesley Rainwater, an inhabitant of this state and who is over the age of twenty one years, respectfully presents unto your Honor, that Special letters of Administration have heretofore been granted to the sheriff of this County upon the estate of Jesse Rainwater, lately of said County, deceased, as will fully appear by inspection of the records of Probate Court of said County, that the said deceased left property, in this State, of the value of about two hundred dollars, ?? lands, which is set forth more fully in the petition of your petitioners heretofore filed for said Special Administration; that the kin's and next of kin of said deceased **are Wesley Rainwater, Green Rainwater, John Rainwater of this County, Lucinda Botton in the City of Mobile, in Mobile County of this State, and Lavinia Smith and Martha Pickens**, wife of John Pickens, who reside in the State of Texas; and that said kin's are all of age. In consideration of the promises, your petitioners respectfully suggests unto your Honor that, as one of the kin of kin of said deceased, and the oldest of said Heirs, he is hereby entitled by law to Administration of said Estate, and prays your Honor, that such steps may be deemed necessary and proper to secure the appointment of your petitioner t that trust according to law, and upon his giving requisite bond and security, and as in duty bound.*

Suscribed and Sworn before me this 6th day of December, 1859: Signed by his mark - Wesley Rainwater.

Daniel James, Judge

Filed Dec 12th, 1859 and recorded Dec 28th, 1859, Daniel James, Judge.

pg 8

Inventory of the Estate of Jesse Rainwater

one dark colored horse

three bed steads and bedding

one cross cut saw and other tools

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 24th day of December, 1859, Daniel James, Judge.

Signed by mark: Wesley and Green Rainwater.

Filed Dec 24th, 1859 and recorded Dec 28th, 1859, Daniel James, Judge.

pg 33

*Jesse Rainwater deceased
Appraisement*

Appraisement of the personal property of Jesse Rainwater, deceased:

<i>1 table</i>	<i>\$0.50</i>
<i>2/3 bed</i>	<i>7.50</i>
<i>3 chairs</i>	<i>.75</i>
<i>9 pieces of clothing</i>	<i>3.00</i>
<i>1 pair plow traces</i>	<i>.50</i>
<i>1 horse</i>	<i><u>50.00</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$62.25</i>

pg 34

Petition for Sale of Personal Property

State of Alabama

Washington County

To the Honorable D. James, Judge of the Court of Probate in and for said County and State:

The petition of Green Rainwater, one of the administrators of the Estate of Jesse Rainwater, deceased, respectfully ref??cuts unto your honor, that said Estate consists of such property as is liable to great waste, that said property is fast depreciating in value; and that the interest of said Estate seems greatly to demand, that said property be immediately sold. Your petitioner, therefore, prays zorn???, that an order be granted authorizing him to sell said property and as is duty bound +c.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 14th day of May, 1860, D. James, Judge.

Signed by mark: Green Rainwater.

Filed May 14th, 1860 and recorded May 20th, 1860, D. James, Judge.

pg 48

Jesse Rainwater, deceased

Report of sale of perishable property.

State of Alabama

Washington County

To the Judge of the Probate Court of said County: The undersigned, one of the administrators of the Estate of Jesse Rainwater, deceased, respectfully reports unto your Honor that in pursuance of the order of said Court, made and entered in the promises, on the 14th day of May, 1860, he proceeded and sold the personal property belonging to said Estate, directed to be sold in said County order, before the Court House door of said county, on the fourth day of June, 1860 at the hour of 12 o'clock on said day; that at said sale, the horse ascribed in said order was sold to M. H. Waldrosse, for the sum of twenty five dollars, cash; and the house hold furniture mentioned and described in said order was sold to Green Rainwater for the sum of two dollars, cash.

This administrator further reports that said saw was conducted family, and A??? in pursuance of law, and that all of said purchase money has bee duly paid.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 18th day of June, 1860, D. James, Judge.

Signed by mark: Green Rainwater.

Filed June 18th, 1860 and recorded June 22nd, 1860, D. James, Judge.

The 1860 Washington Co., Alabama Census was taken in July, however, no listing is found for Mary Rainwater. This census lists the following Rainwater families (St. Stephens Post Office):

Household	NAME	Age	Place of birth	Occupation	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate
138	Smith, John	74	GA	Farmer	240	331
	Catherine	44	AL			
	Rainwater, John	34	AL	Farmer	1000	80
	Rebecca	24	AL			
	William	3	AL			
	Mary S.	10/12	AL			
142	Rainwater, Green	40	AL	Mechanic		300
	Hetta	40	MS			
	Edwin	21	AL			
	Moses	16	AL			
	Julia	14	AL			
	Mary	12	AL			
	James	10	AL			
	Lawrence	8	AL			
	Green B.	6	AL			
	Emeline	3	AL			
320	Rainwater, Wesley	51	AL	Farmer	300	510
	Elizabeth	37	AL			
	Jessy	10	AL			
	Arra	18	AL			
	Albert	17	AL			
	Margaret	15	AL			
	Achsah	14	AL			
	Mary	12	AL			
	Marinda	10	AL			
	Susan	7	AL			
	Elizabeth	5	AL			
	Almsey	3	AL			

Obviously, John Rainwater, youngest son of Jesse Rainwater, obtained most of the land from Jesse prior to his death. Milledge, son of John from his first marriage, is no longer listed in the Census.

In the 1860 Presidential Election Campaign it became apparent that the Republican Party and its candidate, Abraham Lincoln, if elected, would severely restrict the expansion of slavery into new territories and would possibly attempt to abolish slavery entirely. With this in mind, the

Alabama General Assembly passed a resolution on February 24, 1860 which required the Governor to call a State Convention in the event a Republican was elected. After Lincoln's election, the State Convention was opened in Montgomery, AL on January 7, 1861 and four days later passed an ordinance to dissolve the union with the United States of America.

In 1862, residents of Washington County, Alabama signed the following petition to the Confederate States Congress³⁰:

The undersigned resident citizens of Washington County respectfully represent that this county has already furnished three hundred and forty-five volunteers for the existing war and that there now remain in the county only one hundred and twenty men subject to military duty and only a very few old men able to afford any aid in case of difficulty with the slave population, but yet out of this small number on this 12 th day of April 1862 fifty-eight volunteered for the three months service and the balance of the required was (will be) filled by draft. Now we respectfully suggest to your Excellency that if the requisition is ordered from the county at once, we are left defenseless, there are not sufficient men left in the county for parole duty. Again our county is of large extent and the slave population is scattered along the river a long line of unprotected country and that there many families who depend upon those now remaining in the country for a supply of the necessaries of life.

The company formed this day are willing to perform the service or will stand ready at a moments warning to proceed to the defense of Mobile or any part of the coast. Under these circumstances we have to request that the company this day formed be allowed to remain at their homes or disbanded as may seem in best judgement of your Excellency. The names of this communication are all old citizen planters who are devoted to the cause of their country and believe that the requisition is really more than what is demanded by similar requisitions from other counties of the state. Other reasons for the order asked, will be given by those who will call on your Excellency.

	<u>Age</u>		<u>Age</u>
John Richardson	61	Green Rainwater	46
G. Smith	75	E. Y. Bowling	56
W. A. Bailey	70	R. J. Bowling	57
Cornelius Sullivan	71	Wm. Donaldson	54
John Williams	61	P. Moore	46
Solomon Wheat	61	D. H. Land	49
Peter L. Beach	56	Daniel Rain	61
William Malone	49	C. P. Hase	45
Wesley Rainwater	51	A. Sherwood	46
Green Atchenson	49	E. H. Gordy	46

Rainwaters from Washington County that served in the Civil War³¹:

Yancy's Rifles, Co. E, 11th Alabama Infantry:

Mose Rainwater	4th Cpl.; wounded and died at Frazier's Farm June 30, 1862.
Edwin Rainwater	Pvt., wounded and died at Yorktown.

Albert Rainwater	Pvt., enlisted March 22, 1862, age 18, single, farmer; died in hospital at Richmond, Va, May 1862.
Edward Rainwater	Pvt., enlisted September 20, 1861, age 22, single, farmer; died in hospital at Richmond, Va, May 1862.
Mike A. Rainwater	4th Cpl., enlisted June 11, 1861, age 18, single, farmer; present Seven Pines 5/31/62, 6/1/62; Gaines Mill 6/23/62. Killed Frazier's Farm 6/30/62 with bayonet.

Green Rainwater moved to Bearhead Creek, Calcasieu (Beauregard Parish), Louisiana while Wesley lived the remainder of his life in Washington County. Information on Green Rainwater's descendants comes in a large part from the Jacobs Memorial Collection at the Sam Houston Library in Liberty, Texas. This collection was organized primarily by Mr. Curtis Jacobs in his effort to reconstruct the families of everyone born in Beauregard Parish, Louisiana prior to the year 1880.

The following is an account of the descendants of Richard Rainwater as best as I can assemble at this time. My great great grandmother was Maranda Rainwater, daughter of Wesley Rainwater, grand daughter of Jesse Rainwater.

¹ Rainwater Researcher, Volume 1, Issue 1, Sept. 1994, pg 1.

² Cavaliers and Pioneers - Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants - Volume Three: 1695-1732, Nell Marion Nugent, Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA, page 108 (Referencing "Patent Book No. 9"). *JOHN HURT, 546 acs., King Wm. Co., in Pamunkey Neck; 2 May 1706, p. 733. Beg. 6 po. from the Ridge Path; by the Mainskin Path; to Benja. Arnold & John Hurt; down a cr. emptying into Low. Herring Cr; down Mattopony River; to Hance Hendrick's cor. & by Richd. Yarbrough's Tobacco ground; to Mr. Wm. Hurt, Senr. Trans. of 11 pers: Tho. Solwell, Michael (a?) Portugees, Robert Rainwater, Sarah Hoskins, Eliza. Bosford, Anne Gill, Wm. Skyles, Mary Parte, Susanna Good, Cha. Goodrich, Anne Hum.*

³ From CD 136, 1st Edition : Search Words: R*WAT*

"The notes below contain all Rainwater's shown on CD-136 which is Pre-1790 Colonial American Census Index covering AL, CT, DC, DE, IL, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, VT, and VA. I searched on R*WAT* which would return all variations that started with "R", then any number of other letters ending with "WAT", then any number of other letters. There are no Rainwater's shown in VA at all." By Ron Recer, 2408 W Big Cedar Ave, Edmond, OK 73003.

There are no Rainwaters shown in VA at all.

NC PRE-1790, GRANVILLE CO., [NC 1755](#)

SNDX	NAME	TOWNSHIP	PAGE	TYPE	NOTES
>R536	RAINWATER, James	NO TWP LISTED	#		
>R536	RAINWATER, James S Of Jon				#
>R536	RAINWATER, John				#
>R536	RAINWATER, John	NO TWP LISTED	#		

NC PRE-1790, HALIFAX CO., [NC 1781](#)

>R536	RAINWATER, William				#
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NC PRE-1790, JOHNSTON CO., [NC 1784](#)

>R536	RAINWATER, Moses				#
>R536	RAINWATER, Moses	NO TOWNSHIP LISTED	#		

NC PRE-1790, JOHNSTON CO., [NC 1787](#)

>R536	RAINWATER, Moses	HOBBYS COMPANY	#	002	ST
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NC PRE-1790, SURRY CO., [NC 1771](#)

>R536	RAINWATER, John Jr.				#
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NC PRE-1790, SURRY CO., [NC 1772](#)

>R523	RAINGWATER, John Sr.				#
>R536	RAINWATER, James				#

NC PRE-1790, SURRY CO., [NC 1786](#)

SNDX	NAME	TOWNSHIP	PAGE	TYPE	NOTES
>R536	RANEWATER, James	WILLESES DISTRICT	#	002	ST

NC PRE-1790, WARREN CO., [NC 1786](#)

>R536	RAINWATER, Will	COLELOUGHS DISTRIC	#	003	ST
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⁴ 1790 [North Carolina](#) Federal Census, (M>16, M<16, Females, Free Others, Slaves)

Rainwater, Gillam	?????
Rainwater, James	12400
Rainwater, John	10000
Rainwater, Moses, Sr	22400
Rainwater, William	12200

1790 South Carolina Federal Census, (M>16, M<16, Females, Free Others, Slaves)

<u>Rainwaters, John</u>	Spartanburg	pg 86	23700
<u>Rainwaters, Robert</u>	Spartanburg	pg 86	10200
<u>Reinwaters, Thomas</u>	Spartanburg	pg 86	11200

⁵1800 South Carolina Federal Census, Chesterfield Co. (<10, 10-16, 16-26, 26-45, >45)
males-females-slaves

<u>Jesse Rainwater</u>	00010-00100-00
<u>Richard Rainwater</u>	01001-02101-00

Other Rainwater's in 1800 SC Census: males females

Rainwater, Solomon	Pendleton	51010	12110
Rainwaters, John	Spartanburg	11301	12310
<u>Rainwaters, Robert</u>	Spartanburg	20010	21010
Rainwaters, James	Spartanburg	11010	20100
Rainwaters, Benjamin	Spartanburg	20010	10100

Only a James Rainwater is listed in the 1800 North Carolina Federal Census and he is located in Surry Co.

⁶ 1810 South Carolina Federal Census (<10, 10-16, 16-18, 18-26, 26-45, >45)

Rainwater, William	<u>Chesterfield</u>	SC	291	010010	010100
Rainwater, John	Spartanburg	SC	189	001010	020101
Rainwater, Levi	Spartanburg	SC	191	100104	010000
Rainwater, Berrel	Spartanburg	SC	197	101001	01000?
Rainwaters, Benjamin	Spartanburg	SC	197	320101	10100?
Rainwater, James	Spartanburg	SC	198	100100	111000
Rainwater, Miles	Spartanburg	SC	198	001003	010000
Rainwaters, Job	Pendleton	SC	155	000100	201000
Rainwater, Solomon	Pendleton	SC	155	022101	022100

NOTE: No Rainwater's found in Chesterfield Co., SC after 1810 census.

⁷ 1803-1805 Washington Co., Mississippi Territory Tax Roll - Jesse Rainwater (only Rainwater listed).

⁸ *Residents of the South Eastern Mississippi Territory, Washington and Baldwin Counties, Alabama Wills, Deeds and Superior Court Minutes, Book 5*, by Jean Strickland and Patrica N. Edwards, 1996.

⁹ 1808 Washington County, Mississippi Territory Census; From *Records of Choctaw Trading Post St. Stephens, Mississippi Territory, Volume I*, by Jean Strickland, 1984, pg 84.

(M>21, M<21, F>21, F<21, Total White, Free, Slaves, Total)

Jesse Rainwater	2	1	1	3	7	0	2	9
Richard Rainwaters	1	2	1	3	7	0	4	11

¹⁰ 1810 Washington Co. Miss. Terr. Census; From *Records of Choctaw Trading Post St. Stephens, Mississippi Territory, Volume I*, by Jean Strickland, 1984, pg 89.

(M>21, M<21, F>21, F<21, Tot, Free, Slaves, tot)

Jesse Rainwater	1	1	1	3	6	0	2	8
Richard Rainwater	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	3

(these were only two Rainwaters in all of Alabama)

¹¹ From *History of Washington Co.*, by Jacqueline Anderson Matte, Vol. 1., 1982, published by The Washington County Historical Society.

¹² 1811 Chancery Court Minutes of Washington County, M.T.; From *Residents of the South Eastern Mississippi Territory, Book 2A*, by Jean Strickland, 1995, pg 65.

Jesse Rainwater - juror.

¹³ 1813 Clarke Co., Mississippi Territory Tax Roll lists Richard Rainwater;
 1813 Clarke Co., Mississippi Territory Census (M>21, M<21, F>21, F<21)
 Richard Rainwater 4112

¹⁴ *Old St. Stephens Land Office Records & American State Papers, Public Lands*, Vol. 1, 1768 - 1888, by Marilyn Davis Hahn, 1983, pg 16.

¹⁵ *Old St. Stephens Land Office Records & American State Papers, Public Lands*, Vol. 1, 1768 - 1888, by Marilyn Davis Hahn, 1983, pg 21.

¹⁶ 1816 Clarke Co., Alabama Territory Census
 (M>21, M<21, F>21, F<21, Tot, Free, Slaves, tot)
 Richard Rainwater 4 1 1 2 8 0 0 8

¹⁷ *Clarke County, Alabama Records, 1814 - 1885*, by Marilyn Davis Hahn, 1983, pg 80.

¹⁸ *Clarke County, Alabama Records, 1814 - 1885*, by Marilyn Davis Hahn, 1983, pg 80.

¹⁹ *Clarke County, Alabama Records, 1814 - 1885*, by Marilyn Davis Hahn, 1983, pg 83.

²⁰ *Clarke County, Alabama Records, 1814 - 1885*, by Marilyn Davis Hahn, 1983, pg 83.

²¹ *Clarke County, Alabama Records, 1814 - 1885*, by Marilyn Davis Hahn, 1983, pg 116.

²² 1830 Covington Co., MS Census (<10, 10-20, 20-40, 40-60, >60)

	<u>males</u>	<u>females</u>
Rainwater, Richard	3, 1, 0, 1, 0	2, 1, 0, 1, 0

Also find a William Rainwater in Covich Co., MS.

²³ 1830 Washington Co., AL Census (<5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60)

	<u>males</u>	<u>females</u>
Rainwater, Jesse	1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1	0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0

Index shows a William Rainwater in MERE? Co.(Marengo? in South AL) and a William Rainwater in LAUR Co. (Lauderdale? in North AL).

²⁴ *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers, Public Lands, Vol. I*, 1768-1888, pg 48.

Date	Name	County	Twncshp	Range
3/19/1835	Jesse and Westly Rainwater	Monroe Co.	7S	1W

²⁵ 1840 Washington Co., AL Census.

Index also shows :

William Rainwater in MERE? Co.(Marengo? in South AL)

R. Rainwater in CHER Co. (Cherokee? in North AL)

C. Rainwater and A. P. Rainwater in LAUR Co. (Lauderdale? in North AL)

Catherine Rainwater in JACK. Co. (Jackson? in North AL)

²⁶ Washington County Deed Book, L-278.

²⁷ Washington County Deed Book, L-321; Washington County Deed Book, L-401.

²⁸ 1860 Washington Co. Mortality Census.

²⁹ Washington County Deed Book, M-101.

³⁰ From *Governor's Papers*, John Gill Shorter. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Civil Records and Newspaper Collection.

³¹ From *History of Washington Co.*, by Jacqueline Anderson Matte, Vol. 1., 1982, published by The Washington County Historical Society.