

A History of COWETA COUNTY, GEORGIA

**Compiled and written by
The Newnan-Coweta Historical Society**

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RAINEY-HARDEGREE

- Jesse Mercer Rainey b. 5-5-1889, d. 12-15-1966, m. Emma Ruth Hardegree b. 4-14-1894, d. 8-28-1970. Four children:
1. Hulette Hall b. 1-1-1913, m. Opal Shelnutt, d. 2-13-1981.
 2. Joseph Glenn b. 7-28-1922, m. Clara Mae Smith. She died 12-7-1982.
 3. Roy Lamar b. 2-25-1932, m. Martha Jean Smith. He died 4-19-1984 of a heart attack.
 4. George William b. 12-24-1935; m., first, on 10-11-1957 to Mary Helen Yates b. 5-27-1938 in Coweta Co. Three children: Anthony Glenn, Jeffery Curtis, and Jennifer Paige. George William and Mary Helen Yates Rainey divorced 8-31-1978. George William married, second, in 10-1985 to Alice Lee; lives in Palmetto and works with Neely Const. Co. Mary Helen Yates Rainey married, second, on 6-29-1985 to George Edward (Jimmy) Stubbs, Jr. She is employed with Ryder/PIE Nationwide.
 - a. Anthony Glenn b. 8-4-1958. Works as a typographer in Atlanta.
 - b. Jeffery Curtis b. 12-10-1965. Works at Ray's Auto Parts in Newnan.
 - c. Jennifer Paige b. 9-3-1971; attends Central High School and is in honors program.

RALL (RAWL)

Among the prominent early settlers of Coweta County near Haralson were the Ralls and Addys from Lexington District, South Carolina. John Rall (Johannes Rahl) came from Germany in 1749 to the Lexington District, receiving land grants there.

His son, Jacob Rall, Sr. (died ca. 1800), married Catharine Price (1756-1838), daughter of George Price of Lexington. Their son, Jacob Rall, Jr. (1776-1853), married, first, Elizabeth Gartman (1783-1837), daughter of George Gartman, and second, Sarah Corley, daughter of L. Corley, all of Lexington District.

Jacob Rall and his second wife, Sarah Corley, came to Coweta County in 1839, being among the vanguard of German, Dutch and English/Scottish families who constituted the Mt. Pilgrim Lutheran Church near Haralson, the first Lutheran congregation in Georgia north of Macon. The families of this settlement had been members of St. John's, St. Paul's and Salem Creek Lutheran Churches in Lexington District. They constituted a community distinguished by cultivation in intellectual and social matters and they were among Coweta's worthy early settlers.

Jacob Rall provided the land for the first permanent sanctuary of Mt. Pilgrim Church and his home nearby was situated on a comfortable estate of land and slaves. His children, born to his first wife, Elizabeth Gartman, were: John, Samuel, Joseph, Daniel, William, David, Jesse, Celia (Mrs. Elijah Elmore), Mary (Mrs. Jacob Addy), Rebecca and Barbara (Mrs. Levi Bedenbaugh). Of these, five settled in Coweta: Jesse, who married Martha Jane Bellah, and had the following children: Antionette Josephine, Alonzo Hope, Ophelia Jane, Frances E., Lillian May, Sallie Elmore, Jesse, Hattie, Albert August, and Thomas Frank; Joseph, whose wife was Nancy Ann, had two children: Walter T. and Luther Whitfield; Celia, with her husband, the Reverend Elijah Elmore, and children; Mary, with her husband, Jacob

Addy and children; and Barbara, with her husband, the Reverend Levi Bedenbaugh and children.

A grandson of Jacob Rall (Rawl), Jr. who lived in Coweta County from 1844 to 1866 was George Bynum Rawls, born in Lexington County, SC, in 1823. He was the oldest son of John Rawl (b. 1800) and Elizabeth Austin Rawl. George Bynum Rawls married Emeline Bernhard and had the following children: Malissa, Frances, Mary Ellen (m. Thomas Standard), John W. (m. Laura Bernhard), Jacob S. (m. Stella Sims), Benjamin F., Antionette (m. John Hoyt), Lola (m. Richard Clifford), and Ida (m. Fred Stanford).

*RAINWATER-TODD

Ralph Goodwin Rainwater became a resident of Coweta Co. in November 1984. Born 1-9-1922 in College Park, son of James Barnett Rainwater and Lemora Hart Rainwater; m. in 1950 to Hazel Todd b. 8-7-1919 in Tyrone, Ark., dau. of Seth Peter Todd and Minnie Harris Phillips Todd. Two children: 1) Ralph Todd Rainwater, Jr. b. 1-22-1951 in Atlanta, m. 5-15-1976 to Trunicia Gail Hamby b. 9-5-1955 in Forest Park; and 2) Dwight David Rainwater (Dee D) b. 1-21-1953 in Richmond, VA.

Ralph Goodwin Rainwater is the great-great-grandson of Rev. James Rainwater, who came to Coweta Co. in 1837 and lived here 12 years. Rev. Rainwater b. 1-13-1795 in Spartanburg, SC, d. 6-24-1871; m., first, Polly Mason b. 3-14-1799, d. 1-28-1859; m., second, late 1850 to Nancy Candler Dobbs, aunt of Asa Candler. Rev. James and Polly Rainwater are buried in the Ramah Baptist Church Cemetery in Palmetto.

James Rainwater was the first pastor of Ramah Baptist Church and served there for a total of 26 years. He also partored Macedonia Church near Roscoe, and other churches in Spartanburg, SC, Coweta Co., Campbell Co., Meriwether Co., Heard Co., and Carroll Co., for a total of 50 years as a Baptist minister.

Some of James and Polly Rainwater's children who married into well known Coweta Co. families were: Joseph Rainwater m. Caroline E. Walton, moved to Wood Co., TX; Sally Rainwater m. Jessie Mosley; Clara Rainwater m. Ebiney P. Sanders; Elizabeth Rainwater m. Pierce Sewell; Christiana Rainwater m. Green H. Sanders; Frances Rainwater m. E.R. Miller; Martha Rainwater m. John A. Segar; and Zebulon Miles Rainwater m. Lillian Thompson.

REDWINE

Jacob Redwine, a Revolutionary War soldier, son of Frederic Redwine b. in Germany 1699 and Barbara Stoner b. in Prussia 1710, was born in Pennsylvania, 1751. He m. Rowena Rhinehart in Montgomery Co., NC, 1776 and moved to Franklin Co. about 1790. After his wife's death in 1831, he and his eighth child, Lewis Redwine, and his family moved to Coweta Co. in 1832 and settled on Cedar Creek. Jacob is buried in the cemetery at the abandoned site of Concord Meeting House near Palmetto. In 1940, the Sarah Dickinson Chapter, DAR, marked his grave as a Revolutionary War soldier, 100 years after his death. His grave and that of his daughter, Sarah Larimore, are the only marked graves in that cemetery.