

Notes from Aunt Ada on Rodney's.

My grandmother Ann Cullifer was of Dutch extraction. Her mother died at her birth and she was reared by her mother's sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Covington. She never used the name of Cullifer except in the marriage ceremony. She was reared as Ann Covington and treated just as the Covington children were. She did not know that she was not Ann Covington until at boarding-school when the girls were telling how good their mothers were and Ann said she had the best of all, and one of the girls told her that the person she called her mother was really her aunt. The Covingtons and Cullifers came from N. C. to Georgia about 1805 to take up Cherokee land. They brought their slaves with them. When Ann was married, she was given a slave by Mr. Covington as a wedding present. See Book C, Muscogee Co. Deeds, p. 137: Edward Covington of Co. of Muscogee to loving niece Ann Culfer, the daughter of Edward Culfer, one certain yellow negro girl about 11 years old, named Hannah, 1 July 1840. Witnesses: Wilson Gordy, Pleasant Tomberlin, Peter Thomas. The Covingtons and Culfers arrived first in Lincoln Co., Ga. on Savannah River. After a short time they moved to Putnam Co., Ga. where Jincy McGlauchorn Cullifer (Ann's mother) died. About 1820 they moved to near Columbus and owned land near Cusseta in Chattahoochee Co. They were well to do planters and owned large plantations and many slaves. Fort Benning now covers all those plantations. Edward Cullifer (Ann's father) married again and also moved to that area. He was in Marion Co. in 1850 and the census lists the following children for him: Henry 19, James 18, Sarah 13, Martha 11, Ellen-der 8, Edward 6, Edward H. Glaze 23, Eda Culiver 2.

Ann was 17 and Perry 21 when they married. She was very dainty and stylish and always ran to do primping when her husband's presence was announced. She kept this up through her old age. Their children were:

Nancy Ann- my mother who married John Godfry in the spring of 1865. He had come home on furlough, went back to the front and was killed immediately afterwards. Some years later she met and married James Lafayette Bruce. She was well educated and taught during her widowhood. She was born 1 Aug. 1844 at Jamestown, Stewart Co., Ga. and died 28 Jan. 1903 in Mineola, Texas. They were md. 15 Oct. 1868.

Annaretta md. Frank Davenport. He was killed in War and she md. his brother Bryan Davenport. They went to Texas, reared a large family. He died, leaving her well-provided for and after her children were grown, she md. a widower named Zeigler.

Francis- md. Alexander Harrison. Several children. Lived near Cusseta.

Huldah Elizabeth- engaged to John William Bruce (my father's brother) but he left and went to Texas, married ^{out} ~~and~~ there and she never married.

Robert Rufus- md. Amanda Sizemore, lived on plantation adjoining father's. Reared several children. Was Baptist preacher. (I met one of his sons, then about 75 yrs. old, in Texas in 1953.) Took Perry and Ann Radney to Texas.

Walter- went to Texas with Annaretta and Bryant Davenport. Became engaged to young lady named Edna who nursed him and wrote his mother. He died.

Emma Anna md. James Kirbo, lived near Cusseta and later Texas.

Laura Perry was still a young lady when all the family except my mother moved to Texas. Was teacher and artist doing painting, pen sketching and wax work. After moving to Texas she md. a Mr. Lord, a widower. Don't know about children.

Relatives still living in Texas are I. T. Radney of Mineola, Texas, Luther P. Kirbo and Montie Ziegler of Quitman, Texas.

Notes from Aunt Ada on the Rodneys.

Perry Rodney, my grandfather, even as a young man was deeply religious. He was deacon in Baptist Church. His wife was Methodist but joined his church. They both inherited slaves but never bought or sold one. He was very kind to his slaves.

He served all during the Civil War. His sons were not old enough to go. When he got back home he called his house and field slaves around him and told them that they were free to leave him if they wished, but that if they wanted to stay and gather the crops, he would pay them the same that he would anyone. He said that if they wished to continue to stay with him, he would pay them, but the Negroes said that he had always been so kind to them and provided so well for them that if they stayed on there they would never realize that they were free.

They stayed until the crops were harvested and Grandfather paid them off. But as long as my grandparents remained in Georgia, the ex-slaves and their families would go and camp on the old home grounds for one week after the crops were laid by. They all went at the same time for their yearly visit to "Miss Ann and Marse Perry." Grandfather was known as "Squire Radney."

Grandfather evidently exerted a good influence over his slaves. George, one of the house-servants and coachman, was a Baptist preacher. The slaves attended church with their owners and a time was given George to preach just as if he had been free and white. After the emancipation, he went to the North with some white people who became interested in him.

Charles, one of the house-boys, was a favorite with Grandmother. He stood behind her chair at meals and pulled the cord that waved the fly-fan over the table and he would whisper, "Miss Ann, give me a lump of sugar" and she would slip one to him as if she and he were the only ones who knew it.

Hannah was cook and Barbara was house-made. There were the field hands, of course, and the woman who cared for the little pickaninnies while their parents were at work. They had to spin the thread and weave the cloth to clothe all those people; and the sewing being done entirely by hand, they had their sewing women.

A few yrs. ago, I talked with an old man, a Mr. Layfield, whose father's plantation adjoined my Grandfather's. He was a very cultured old man. He told me that descendants of Grandfather's slaves still lived about Cusseta and Columbus and were fine, upright, honest Negroes. (In 1955 I found several negro families by the name of Radney listed in the Columbus telephone book-Lucile)

Grandfather lived to be 84 yrs. old. He was 4 yrs. older than my Grandmother and she lived just 4 yrs. after he died and died at same age that he did. They died and were buried in Texas--either Mineola or Quitman.

The Gordys of Cusseta and Columbus are relatives. Also the McGlowns (named shortened from McGlauchon) Loves and Scotts

Rodney (Radney) Family of Maryland, Delaware and Georgia

Our family of Rodneys came to Georgia about 1800 or a few years later. The first in Georgia was one John Rodney who had married Peggy Piper and they came to Hancock Co., Ga. John was descended from a family which had lived in the same place up north since 1734 (or earlier) but which because of changes in county and state lines was first listed as being in Somerset Co., Md.; then Worcester Co., Md. and finally, Sussex Co., Delaware. This made it necessary to do research in all of these places.

It has always been believed by our family that our Rodneys were connected with another Delaware family of Rodneys whose progenitor, William Rodney came to America with William Penn and whose grandson, Caesar Rodney was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. I do not believe that we are connected closely to that family because they have complete Bible and other family records which indicate all the descendants and our first ancestor that I have found in America, also a William Rodney, could not have belonged to that immediate family.

However, a complete history of the Rodney family indicates that there were several members of the English family who came to America--some settling first in Antigua, a small Caribbean Island, and perhaps later coming to the colonies. There is a will of one John Rodney in 1696 in Pennsylvania who calls William Rodney (the friend of Penn) a nephew) and who leaves property in America, the West Indies and Old England to his wife Ann and son Caesar. I have not been able to find any further trace of this Caesar--the mother moved to New Jersey where she was lost track of, but our William could have come from some of these relatives. At least 2 uncles of William Rodney the friend of Penn went to the West Indies. William is a favorite name in both branches. Someday I hope to have the time and money to prove this connection.

The first definite proof I have of the beginnings of our family in America is the marriage of William Radney to Mary, the widow of Thomas Endlose (also spelled Inlors or Inloss) in 1734. This is recorded in Somerset Co., Md. Liber 29, Folio 477, not as a marriage, but in a paper dated 6 Nov. 1734, which states that regarding an account of the Administration of the estate of Thomas Endlose, William Radney has intermarried Mary, the administratrix and prays time to pass additional account. Radney gives bond in common form with Mary his wife. Sureties: Richard Jefferson and Ebenezer Jones, in 80 pounds Sterling.

Our William Radney bought various pieces of land in the area and there are several references to his service as bondsman, etc. He bought two parcels of land from the Inlors's heirs as is recorded in the Sussex Co., Del., Bk. HH, P. 307. This deed states that on Feb. 29, 1724, land was granted by Somerset Co., Maryland to Robert Givan and was laid out for him by Southey Whittington. The tract was called "What You Please" and consisted of 200A. on the Sea Bord Side, at Head of Meli Branch of south side of main branch of Indian River. On the 26 March 1762, J. Tabitha Inlors, daughter and heir to Thomas Inloss of Somerset, deceased, sold her interest, 100 A. , in What You Please to William Rodney. Also Thomas Prettyman and his wife, Elizabeth Inloss, dau. of Thomas Inloss of Somerset, dec., sell their portion of What You Please to William Rodney, April 1762. This was recorded in the land office of Province of Maryland 29 March 1776, David Stukart, Clerk, with following note: "This is to certify that William Radney by his last will and testament left the within land to his Son, this present William Radney who has been possessed of the land some time." This property later descended to William Rodney the third who sold it to Robert Prettyman in 1805.

My father's name is Rodney before 1800 or a few years later. I am sure of this because I have seen the name in many places. I am sure of this because I have seen the name in many places. I am sure of this because I have seen the name in many places.

