

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.

Handwritten notes in left margin:
The name of John Rodney (the father) is the same as the name of the Rodney family in the West Indies. 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.

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William Rodney I also patented the tract "Chance", in Worcester Co., Md. Liber BC&GS #8, Folio 185, covering 100^a on the edge of the Somerset Seaboard side and E. side of Sheep Penn Branche, formerly called Murray's Folly.

755 William Radney I was listed as serving in Capt. Joseph Dirickson's Co. in 1789, Colonial Wars Card Indtex.

The will of William Rodney I, dated 3 Dec. 1767, and probated 19 Oct. 1770, Maryland Ardhves, Liber 38, Folio 67, names wife Mary and

757 Son: William II

759 759 748 756 Daughters: Mary Magdaline Jones (Thomas Jones)

760 Leah Simpler (Thomas Simpler) 799

761 Lydia Rodney

762 Susannah Marville (Thomas Marville) 800

763 Comfort Marville (Philip Marville) 801

Son-in-law: Thomas Prettyman of Worcester Co., Md.

I have not been able to find out the maiden name of the wife of William I. It is possible that she was a Perry--the name Perry is used twice among the descendants (sons of Schofield and John). She might have been a Prettyman. The name Perry is also used in this family: will of John Prettyman 23 Feb. 1754 names son Perry, dau. Sarah; will of William Prettyman, 25 April 1751 names dau. Sarah and Magdalen, names known in our Rodney family. (Perry might have been the name Mary, name of mother like mother to Rodney)

I have spelled the name Rodney in each instance as found in the records. On Delaware, I did not find any material indexed as Radney, but did find that spelling in some of the deeds; In Maryland I found some material filed under Radney--however, the will is Rodney; in Georgia and Texas the name is almost always Radney. I think that in the early days the pronunciation was always Rodney, but the English used such a broad A, that for pronunciation, it was immaterial whether it was spelled with an Q or an A and some of the clerks of court did not know the difference. Just like the word "Dagsborough Hundred" (where our Rodneys lived in Delaware) is today pronounced with a short A. In the early days it must have been pronounced like "Dog" because I have seen it written with an O in many deeds.

William Rodney II or Sr.

757 William Rodney II, generally written in Delaware deeds as William Rodney, Sr., had three sons: William Rodney, Jr., Schofield Rodney, John Rodney. It is not known whom William Rodney II married, but I think she may have been one Sarah Schofield. They had a son Schofield and our John named a son Schofield. I suggest Sarah because one deed in Delaware is witnessed by Sarah Rodney and I know of no other Sarah Rodney. Of these sons:

764 763 764 William Rodney III or Jr. received a deed of gift from his father 2 Nov. 1799, of three tracts of land, "What You Please", "Liberty" and "Rodney's" Lot, Sussex Co., Georgetown, Vol. W-21, page 592. He married first, Mary or Polly Melson and had two children: John Rodney and Polley Rodney. This is shown in will of Joseph Melson, 22 Feb. 1808 naming daughter, Polley Rodney, and grandchildren John and Polley, children of William Rodney. In 1812, William and Polley Rodney made deeds of gift to their children John and Polley of the lands that Polley inherited from her father Melson. In 1822, this William III married a second time, a widow, Anne Smith. Md. Records, Liber AN, p. 138. His first wife must have died between 1812 and 1822. 805

Their son John married Ellenor O'Neal in 1814 and they were big lumber mill operators. There are many deeds and leases of land shown to them in the records. 804

Their daughter, Polley, possibly moved to Georgia. On 14 Dec. 1821, Polly sold her land, "Downses Chance" (land that divided the land of George and Daniel Rodney of the Caesar Rodney family) near Laurel Town and Indian

River in Brown Creek Hundred, to her brother John. The 1827 Georgia Land Lottery lists one Polley Rodney, Her father had married again and many of her relatives moved to Georgia, so she probably went also.

The 2nd son of William Rodney II was Schofield Rodney who married Betsy Penniwell. He received a deed of gift from his father 20 July 1811. This deed names tracts "Chance" (granted to William Rodney I in Maryland Patent, 1757) "Industry" and "Maple Swamp." The deed states that these are the lands on which William Rodney II now lives and that he is to have control of them until his death. Schofield Rodney died in 1838 and the administration of his estate mentions heirs: Thomas S., Annanias, Philip S., John B., Perry S., Sarah S., the wife of Laban Taylor. Of these, Perry Rodney married Percy Massey and they were parents of John B., James P., and William T. Radney.

The 3rd son of William II was our ancestor John B. Rodney. (Note that practically every family has a John B. Rodney)

738 John B. Rodney

Our John B. Rodney occurs in the Delaware records only once that I know for sure. On 2 Jan. 1794 he married Peggey Piper. The marriage bond has as one of the bondsmen, William Rodney, and as the other Thomas Marvel, who would have been a kinsman--probably uncle by marriage. Archives, Dover, Del., Vol. 2, page 193.

Why his father did not make a deed of gift to him as he did to the other sons William III and Schofield, I do not know. However, it is known by the family that John Rodney suffered from ill-health, diagnosed as tuberculosis, and was told to seek a warmer climate. We know that he was in Georgia at least by 1812 when he was listed as John Radney, Sr., Captain of a tax district in Hancock County, Ga. and owning 607 acres of land. (Some Early Tax Digests of Ga., by Ruth Blair, 1926, p. 64 and 73). It is probable that John's and Peggey's fathers gave the young couple whatever they could afford in the way of household goods and cash when they left Delaware. I do not know just when they left, but their oldest child, Sarah, was born in Delaware in 1795. (Ga. Census of 1850, Muscogee Co.) They probably came with a group of friends and relatives because a number of the names in the tax digest are the same as some in Delaware and Maryland.

Pursley Daniel Radney, a grandson of John and son of Perry Radney, has in his possession a mathematics note-book kept by Perry Radney in 1833 and in which Perry had written a list of John Radney's family with date of birth, etc. I saw this Pursley Radney in Texas about three years ago and he showed me the note-book, several pages of which I had photostated. He also had an old trunk--the cow-hide kind that people used to carry on the side of horse and two pictures--one of Perry and one of his wife Ann Cullifer. I now have the two pictures. Pursley was living in Como, Texas, but was a very elderly man when I saw him--78 now if alive. The following is taken from Perry's notes except items in parenthesis which is material I have found other places:

733 John Radney was born 22 June 1771, died March 1851. (I have never been able to find out where he died. He is not listed in the 1850 census of either Hancock Co. or Muscogee, Troup, Stewart or Marion where various of the sons were living. The last actual record I have is when he helped settle the estate of one of his sons about 1840.)

739 Peggey (Piper), his wife, born 7 Oct. 1776, d. 12 Dec. 1847. (I have found many Pipers in Delaware and Maryland, but no lead that would indicate Peggey's family.)

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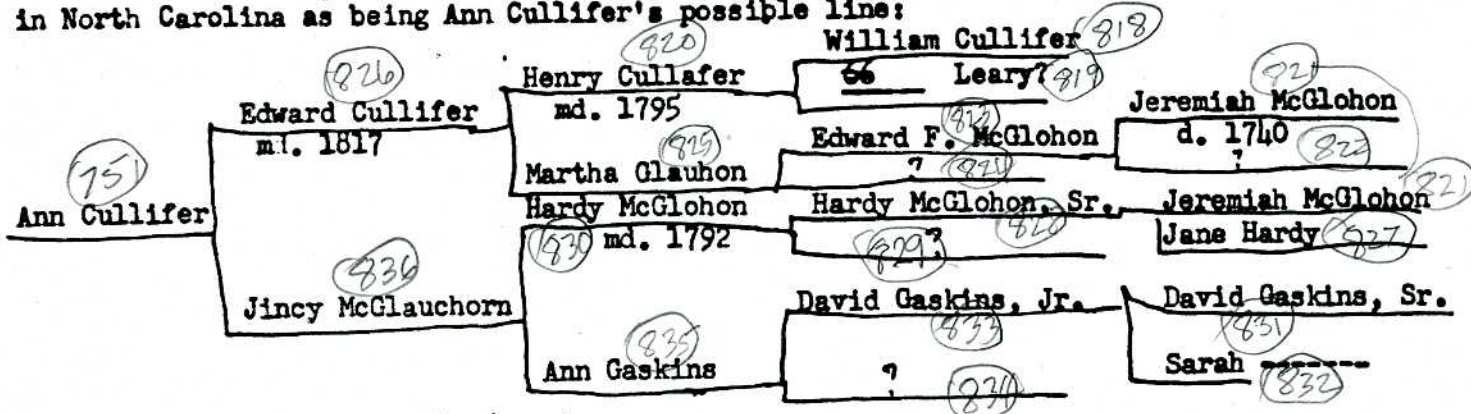
- 740 1. Sally. b/ 6 Jan/ 1795, d. 23 July 1876. (She was probably named Sarah which I think was her grandmother's name. She md. Samuel Beck in Muscogee Co., Ga. 23 Feb. 1840; Martin's History of Columbus, p. 114. Her marriage record shows her name to be Rodney. The 1850 Census of Muscogee Co. says she was born in Delaware.)
- 741 2. Sylvester Smith Radney, b. 1797- d. 1834. (Md. Hancock Co., 1823. Marriage records Hancock.)
- 742 3. Thomas, b. 1800, d. 1822. (Have found no record in Ga.)
- 743 4. Lewey, b. 1801, d. infant
- 744 5. John B. Radney, Jr., b. 1804, d. 1875. (Name occurs in Hancock Co. Census, 1850.)
- 745 6. William Anderson, b. 1807, d. 1875. (Married in Hancock Co., ¹⁸²⁶ marriage records there. In Troup Co. Census of 1850.)
- 746 7. Robert Mitchell, b. 1810, d. 1839, (md. Hancock Co., 1831)
- 747 8. Benton H., b. 1813, d. 1884. (Md. Hancock Co. ¹⁸²⁶ In Stewart Co. Census of 1850. He was probably named for Benton Harris who was Clerk of Court in Maryland, Worcester Co., at time of William Rodney's will. I have tried to find some family connection, but have not been successful.)
- 748 9. Nancy, b. 1816, d. 1823.
- 749 10. James Schofield, b. 1818, d. 1846. (Have not found any record in Ga. I believe this was the name of his grandfather and that his ^{grand} mother was probably Sarah Schofield.)
- 750 11. Perry Daniel, b. 26 April 1821, d. July 10, 1907.

750 Perry Daniel Rodney.

Perry Daniel Rodney was our ancestor. He was born 26 April 1821 in Hancock Co., Ga. and died 10 July 1907 in Coke Co., Texas. He married Ann Cullifer 24 Aug. 1843 in Muscogee Co., Ga. (Marriage records in Muscogee Co.) Ann was born in Putnam Co., Ga. 5 of Nov. 1824 and died Mineola or Quitman, Texas 17 Jan. 1910.

751 Ann Cullifer was the daughter of Edward Cullifer and Jincy McGlauchorn. He was born in North Carolina as was she and they were married in Putnam Co., Ga., 3 March 1817. She died just after Ann's birth in Putnam Co. and he died in Marion Co., Ga. sometime after War between the States. Edward Cullifer was the son of Henry Cullafer and Martha Ghohon who were married in Bertie Co., N. C. in 1795 and who migrated to Putnam Co., Ga. with a group of friends and relatives. The Cullifer name is spelled various ways in North Carolina and goes back to the beginnings of the colony. I have not been able to identify our line back of Henry. Jincy McGlauchorn's parents: William McGlouhon and Ann Gaskins were also married in Bertie Co., N. C. 11 Jan. 1780. The McGlauchorn name is also spelled in various ways and there were many in North Carolina. These families and the Gaskins seem to have come to Georgia together from North Carolina.

The following is a sketch of what I have worked out from very scattered records in North Carolina as being Ann Cullifer's possible line:



a great deal of

There was considerable intermarriage among members of the Cullifer family in North Carolina and among members of the McGlauchorn family. This was sometimes spelled Glohon, McGlohon, McGlauchon, etc. and I think all of the names above were probably connected. The earliest reference to the name in N. C. is a deed in 1726 when James McGlauchon buys 317 A. of land from Wm. Curlee and wife and in 1727, James M. Macglohon gives 140 A. to James McGlohon, the son of Jeremiah. The only will in this family is one in 1750 in which James McGlohon names son James, wife Margaret, dau. Alice and sons-in-law Christopher and Samuel Hollyman and Wm. Roads. I think our line must have come from the brother Jeremiah.

The Gaskins family was one of the original settlers in North Carolina from Virginia and one William Gascoigne (as the name was originally) was in Albemarle Co., N. C. in 1694 and served on jury in 1702. I have not been able to connect our family back to the original, but feel sure that they go back.

To get back to Ann Cullifer: When her mother died she was adopted by her aunt, mother's sister, who was married to Edward Covington. They moved to Muscogee Col, Ga. about 1820. Ann was treated like a member of the family and when she married, Edward Covington made her a present of a slave as is recorded in Muscogee Co. She is said to have been very pretty and dainty.

750 Perry Rodney and Ann Cullifer had the following children:

758 1. Nancy Ann Radney was b. 21 Aug. 1844. Married James Lafayette Bruce.

753 2. Amaretta Chorilla Radney was born 23 Feb. 1846. 752 837 838

754 3. Rufus Robert Radney- married Amanda Sizemore and moved to Texas taking Perry and Ann Radney with them. Rufus had children Pursley Daniel, Walter, Teat, John. Among relatives still living in Texas related to us are: I. T. Radney, Mineola Texas; Luther P. Kirbo and Montie Ziegler of Quilman, Texas. 839

Perry and Ann evidently moved to Texas about 1889 according to the information given me by I. T. Radney and Pursley Radney. However, Pursley told me that his parents and my grandparents: James Lafayette Bruce and Nancy Ann Radney moved together from Georgia to Mississippi and that they lived in the same house there for about a year during which time my father, Edward Cecil Bruce was born. He was born 9 May 1877 so they must have moved a little earlier than either of them thought--or maybe they were on the road to Texas for a couple of years. Our family came back to Georgia from Mississippi and theirs went on to Texas. There may have been other children in the Perry Radney-Ann Cullifer family. The first two are listed in Perry's notebook. There has been some talk of a family Bible which I have never seen and probably other names were written in the Bible. I suppose the family in Texas could tell us and I forgot to ask. We will return to Nancy Ann Radney after we take up the Bruce family.

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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

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Notes from Aunt Ada on Rodneys.

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 McLaughorn 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:

(38) 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. 1814 at Jamestown, Stewart Co., Ga. and died 28 Jan. 1903 in Mineola, Texas. They were md. 15 Oct. 1868.

(753) 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.

(841) Francis- md. Alexander Harrison. Several children. Lived near Cusseta.

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

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

(843) 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.

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

(845) 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.