



Information on the Rainey family of Greenville, Co. Down

This document (updated 27 Dec 2014) has been collated from a number of sources. Most important of all was

Agnew, Jean. *Belfast Merchant Families of the Seventeenth Century*,
Four Courts Press, Co. Dublin, 1996.

Other sources include a variety of online websites, including *Wikipedia* for Rainey Endowed School

<http://www.luciefield.net/williamrainey.pdf>

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/maxwell/messages/6678.html>

<http://www.historyfromheadstones.com/index.php?id=522&page=85&prevStartQuery=420&theme=Infant&Send=Send>

http://www.mmtrust.org.uk/mausolea/view/437/Rainey_Mausoleum

http://www.nixonlibrary.gov/virtuallibrary/documents/whsfreturned/WHSF_Box_10/WHSF10-12.pdf

<http://allancairnduff.tripod.com/ibdmd.html>

<http://www.follies-trust.org/uploads/files/knockbredabook.pdf>

Baptismal Register of Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church, 1757-1790

The Rainey family of Greenville features quite often in the Drennan-McTier letters.

In 1788, referring to a “whimsical party”, a lottery dinner, at Lord Donegall’s Deer Park (the Cave Hill), Martha McTier writes: “I know Mrs Rainey [Henrietta, née Hutchinson) was asked to go, but I believe declined it, being very ill breeding.”

The knife was still out a short time later that year when she discusses “the mistress” of Greenville, Henrietta Rainey, née Hutchinson (R Maxwell is Rainey Maxwell, William Rainey’s cousin):

“I spent last night at Greenville for the first time for above a twelve month. I had determined not to go there again but R Maxwell (the only one of the family who now cares a pin for me) urged me, in so polite and delicate a manner that I could not refuse. Few I admire so much, none I esteem higher than that man. There is heart in every thing he says and does. The house is now so wholly altered, that not a spot in it recalls past times or gives me any melancholy ideas. The mistress is very clever, much more so than the world allows, but she does not think me worth pleasing and therefore I suppose I do not think her agreeable, nor would I have thought she could ever have been the woman to gain so much power over Mr M – though I think she acts so as to merit his approbation, which has been of great use to her in the opinion of others.”

William Rainey of Greenville (c.1745-1803), designated here as ‘the younger’ (and as William IV) was the fifth generation of the Rainey family which came to Ulster from Ayrshire in the mid-17th century. William Rainey (William IV) was a Deputy Governor of Co. Down and he became Captain of the Belfast Troop of Yeoman Cavalry during the 1798 Rebellion by the United Irishmen.

His first wife, Henrietta (or Harriet) Maria Rainey (c.1757-1790) was the daughter of Rev James Hutchinson and Miss Martha Moore – clearly a relative (most likely a sister) of Roger Moore (1723-1784) of Cloverhill, Killead parish.

William and Henrietta (or Harriet) are buried in Knockbreda graveyard where there is a large pillared monument with inscriptions on all four sides. Henrietta died on 22 August 1790, aged 33, and William remarried (to a flirtatious widowed widow, Mary Anne Boyd, by whom William had more children). An outline family history culled from the Knockbreda memorial reads:

Here are interred the remains of Catherine Rainey, daughter of John Rainey of Greenville, Esq., who departed this life Novr. 20th 1771 aged 24 years.

Sacred to the memory of Mary Rainey, the amiable wife of John Rainey of Greenville, Esqr., who departed this life April 21st 1782 aged 70 years.

John Rainey of Greenville, Esqr., died Octr. 9th 1793 aged 76 years.

Rainey Maxwell of Drumbo, Esqr. died Decr. 13th 1811 aged 67 years.

Mary Goddard, wife of James Goddard of Belfast, Esqr., died April 16th 1816 aged 26 years.

Matilda Goddard her infant daughter aged 5 months.

Harriet Maria Goddard departed this life the 28th day of July 1818 aged 8 years.

Dedicated by a grateful and affectionate husband to the memory of Harriet Maria Rainey of Greenville who died 10th August 1790 aged 33 years.

William Rainey of Greenville, a Deputy Govr. of Co. Down, died 12th June 1803 aged 58 years.

M.S of Elizabeth Goddard, wife of John Goddard of Newry, Esq. who departed this life the 16th day of Febry. 1786 in the 43rd year of her age.

Also here lieth the body of Mary, daughter of the said John and Elizabeth Goddard, who died Novr. 17th 1772 in the second year of her age.

Arthur Rainey died 20th December 1812 aged 18 years.

Martha Rowan, wife of Robert Rowan, Esqr. and daughter of William Rainey of Greenville Esqr. departed this life 28th November 1817 aged 38 years.

Major William Henry Rainey of Mount Panther, son of Wm. Rainey of Greenville, died 25th July 1830 aged 50 years.

Margaret his wife, daughter of Robert Macan, Carriff, Co. Armagh, died 11th May 1839.

Also their children: Anna Eliza died 3rd Aug. 1821. Robert Richardson died 4th Nov. 1832 aged 8 years.

Also their grandchild Caroline Susannah, daughter of Arthur Jacob Macan Rainey, Major Madras Staff Corps and Caroline Susannah, his wife, died 9th of April 1870 aged 18 months. Also Arthur Henry, their elder son, who died 12th September 1888 aged 28 years. And Arthur Jacob Macan Rainey, Major General Madras Staff Corps, son of Major William Henry Rainey of Mount Panther, born 26th April 1826, died 13th June 1906.

William and Harriet Rainey had five sons and two daughters: 1. John Rainey of Drumbo, Co. Down, (1776-1856); 2. William Henry Rainey of Mount Panther (1780-1830); 3. James Rainey [d.1816]; 4. Francis Rainey; 5. Henry Rainey, a Captain in the 82nd Regiment; 6. Martha Rainey (1778-1817), 7. Mary Rainey [d.1816].

Jean Agnew, in her book *Belfast Merchant Families of the Seventeenth Century* (pp. 243, 244), provides a brief history of the family from which the following has been condensed. Ms Agnew points out that her notes on the Rainey family are based on Henry Joy's notes (Joy was a grandson of Robert Rainey of Killybegs [Co. Antrim], the brother of William, the elder) which include extracts from William Rainey the younger's manuscript *Journal* in the Linen Hall Library.

Henry Joy was the son of Robert Joy and Grace Rainey

Henry Joy's wife was Mary Isabella Holmes, so Henry's father-in-law was the banker John Holmes. John Holmes' daughter Elizabeth married her cousin John Holmes Houston and they moved into Orangefield House in 1819. Small world!

Now from the start:

First there was a William Rainey (William I), possibly a militia officer from Ayrshire, born c.1565, who settled in Belfast in 1605 (other unverified sources suggest 1604 and state that he settled in Killybegs [Co. Antrim]).

This William had a son John Rainey (1602-1682) of Killybegs, Co. Antrim (but born in Ayrshire). John married a sister of Hugh Eccles of Belfast. John died in Killybegs.

Note: I have not seen the relevant sources for myself. Jean Agnew and others quote "Killybegs, Co. Antrim"; some online references amend this to the better known "Killybegs, Co. Donegal", though that seems most unlikely, given its relative out-of-the-wayness. Co. Antrim does indeed have a townland close to Ballymena called Downkillybegs; it is divided into Killybegs Upper and Killybegs Lower. The Co. Antrim Killybegs would also be much, much closer to Castledawson and Magherafelt with their strong Rainey family connections. Some sources also give John Rainey's death as 1688.

The children of John Rainey and Hugh Eccles's daughter were:

William (c.1639-1722), the elder (William II).

Robert of Killybegs (?-1725).

Captain Hugh Rainey of Magherafelt (?-1707), merchant and iron-founder.

Hugh's daughter Elizabeth (?-1728) married Thomas Ash, an alderman of Londonderry and its High Sheriff in 1694.

Mary
Grace

The relevant line to Bloomfield is through William, the elder, (William II) because it leads to Greenville (the neighbouring house to Bloomfield). However it is worth noting Captain Hugh Rainey's contribution to the north of Ireland. *Wikipedia* records it thus:

"Rainey Endowed School was founded by Hugh Rainey, an iron smelter and wealthy merchant in the Magherafelt district. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Congregation of

Castledawson, which at that time included Magherafelt. As a result of a vow made to God for his protection and favour [following an escape from a shipwreck] he, by his will dated 11 April 1707, devoted one half of his estate to fund a charity school for 24 boys: “sons of parents who were of good report and reduced to poverty”. After three years instruction the boys were to be given a suit of clothes, £2.50 for an apprentice fee.

“In his Will, Hugh Rainey wrote “that what I have left may not only be for a generation or two, but that it may be for many not yet born”, and so ‘The Rainey’ was founded.

“Hugh Rainey died in 1707 [Jean Agnew clarifies thus: his “prerogative will dated 11 April 1707, proved 9 May 1709] and the task of building the school fell to his only child, Elizabeth, and her husband. The school was built in 1713 on land leased from the Salters’ Company, and is still on that site today. ... The school motto, taken from the Salters’ Company, is *Sal Sapit Omnia*, translated as *Salt savours all*.”

William Rainey (c.1639-1722), the elder, (William II) son of William Rainey (William I) and Miss Eccles, was a leading Presbyterian merchant and ship-owner in Belfast, and a freeman of Londonderry (1703). Jean Agnew describes him as a “third generation immigrant, family from Ayrshire”. He was born at Whitehouse, Co. Antrim, and in 1669 was described as a “merchant stapler”. He fled to Scotland with his family in 1688 but subsequently he reappears as a ruling elder in Belfast’s Second Presbyterian congregation in Rosemary Lane (now Street) in 1697 and 1711. He was married to Jane McCormick, or McConville, of Portaferry and she died in July 1716.

The children of William and Jane were:

John (1669-1717).

William (the younger) (1671-1725), born in North-street, Belfast. This is William III.

Margaret (1673-?).

Jane (1675-1747). She married merchant John Eccles in 1693. They had no children.

Grissell (1678-1724).

Robert (1681-1736), Presbyterian minister in Newry (his son Francis graduated from Glasgow University in 1734 and became a medical doctor in Newry).

Daniel (1682-1746), minister of English church in Amsterdam.

Elizabeth (dates?).

Anne (dates?).

Mary (1687-?).

[Evalyn, who is only listed at <http://www.luciefield.net/williamrainey.pdf>]

William Rainey, the younger (William III), had a daughter Jane by his first wife, Jane Brooke of Londonderry and four sons (Arthur, John, William and Patrick, detailed below) by his second wife, Katherine Shaw, a niece of Arthur Maxwell of Drum, Co. Down.

1. Arthur Rainey of Castle Hill, Co. Down (d.1754) married Frances, daughter of Surgeon William Hamilton of Dublin. He assumed the additional surname of Maxwell and inherited the Drum estate, Drumbeg/Drumbo, Co. Down. He matriculated from the University of Glasgow in 1733, as did his son Rainey Maxwell (c.1744-1811) in 1763. The son died without issue and was buried at Knockbreda [will proved 28 January 1813].

2. John Rainey of Greenville, Co. Down (c.1717-1793) married Mary Hamilton (c.1712-1782), sister of the above Surgeon William Hamilton. Both were buried at Knockbreda. They had 4 children:

1. William Rainey of Greenville (c.1745-1803) (William IV) married [1] Henrietta (or Harriet) Maria (c.1757-1790), daughter of the Rev James Hutchinson. Both were buried at Knockbreda.
William IV then married [2] Mary Anne Boyd.
2. Frances Rainey.
3. Catherine Rainey (c.1747-1771). She was buried at Knockbreda.
4. Elizabeth Rainey (d.1786) married John Goddard of Newry. She and her daughter Mary were buried at Knockbreda.

See the details of the 1771 Rainey Mausoleum at Knockbreda graveyard here: http://www.mmtrust.org.uk/mausolea/view/437/Rainey_Mausoleum where it's described thus: "Classically inspired mausoleum built c.1771. Square in plan with a stuccoed finish. Base plinth supporting four Tuscan corner columns. Central square-headed inscription plaque flanked by pilasters. Delicately swagged frieze. Pyramidal and urn finials on a curvilinear doomed roof."

3. William who died before 1742 without leaving any children
4. Patrick, an army captain (1720-1768).

William Rainey (William IV) had the following 5 sons and 2 daughters by his first wife [the Arthur (1794-1812), Boyd and Elizabeth listed on the memorial are presumably children by his second wife]:

1. John Rainey of Drumbo, Co.Down, born 14 March 1776, died without issue, 1856.
2. William Henry Rainey of Mount Panther, born 22 April 1780, died 1830, married Martha Macan [d.1839] and both were buried at Knockbreda.
3. James Rainey (d.1816) married Anne Loring and had descendants.
4. Francis Rainey.
5. Henry Rainey was a Captain in the 82nd Regiment.
6. Martha Rainey, born 19 July 1778, died 1817, married [1] George Stewart and [2] Robert Rowan. She was buried at Knockbreda.
7. Mary Rainey (d.1816) married James Goddard of Belfast. She and her children Matilda and Harriat [sic] were buried at Knockbreda.

Note: John, William Henry and Martha were baptised in Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast.

William Henry Rainey of Mount Panther had 4 children:

1. Major-General Arthur Jacob Macan Rainey of Mount Panther (1826-1906) married Caroline Susan, eldest daughter of the Rev William Robinson, Rector of Bovevagh. Both were buried at Knockbreda.
They had 7 children, two of whom were buried at Knockbreda. The eldest surviving son, Robert Maximillian, took the additional surname of Robinson and lived at Kilbroney House, Rostrevor.

2. Robert Richardson Rainey (1824-1832) was buried at Knockbreda.
3. Anna Elizabeth Rainey (d.1821) was buried at Knockbreda.
4. Elizabeth Matilda Rainey married Robert Leslie Ogilby of Ardnargle, Co. Londonderry. See Burke's *Landed Gentry of Ireland*, 1912.