



The Rawlin(g)s-Rollin(g)s Family History Association

June 6, 2000

Jean Rawlings Meaney
36 Planters Wood Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Dear Jean:

Forgive my not answering you sooner as I promised but my son has been quite ill and I've been spending time at the hospital and when not there worrying myself sick. But he's on the mend now and all is well.

Thank you for the information you sent. Very informative...also the material for your query letter which will be in the June issue. Enclosed you will find the March 2000 newsletter plus Index for 1999's issues. I've also enclosed the September 1988 issue, plus 2 others which contain information which might be about your JAMES S. and/or JOHN H. RAWLINGS. However, we could find no information in our files about a RICHARD J. other than a brief mention in the 1850 Tennessee Census.

On pp. 6 and 7 of the March 1992 newsletter we have the 1840 Federal census for Tennessee. P. 6 has Davidson County...a JOHN ROLLAND with 1 male 20-30... 1 female 20-30 and 1 girl under 5. Due to the inaccuracies of information gathering in those days...this could be your JOHN HUTCHINGS RAWLINGS, wife Rachel and daughter Lydia.

On Page 7 in Madison County there is a family which I really don't believe is your JOHN H...but I mention it so you can look at it. On Page 9 is the record of JAMES S. RAWLINGS marriage to Rachel Hutchins.

In the June 1990 newsletter, P. 12 - there are excerpts from the book "Tennessee Cousins...and a JAMES RAWLINGS is indicated...also a JOHN H. RAWLINGS on a Greene County and a Dyer Countt, Tennessee tax list.

Not in the newsletter but a separate piece of paper in the Tennessee file I found this: JOHN HUTCHINGS RAWLINGS in the 1850 Tennessee Census. JOHN is aged 43...wife Sara is 36...Daughter Lydia 16; son JAMES 14, dtr. RACHEL 12; son STOKELY 10; Son RICHARD J. 6, dtr. JANE 3...and son JOHN 1 day old. Also a woman 65 named Lydia Hayes. Perhaps mother-in-law.

A person who has done research in this area you might like to contact is

Debbie Phares, 310 Estornino Lane, El Cajon, CA 92021
She's not a member so I don't know if she is on the Internet.

P. 2

I'm sorry we weren't more help but we will put your Query letter in the June issue which I am preparing right now...and see what happens.

Regards,


Katherine Rawlings

ENC: September 1988 newsletter
June 1990 newsletter
March 1992 newsletter
March 2000 newsletter and 1999 Index
"Origin of the Name"

From NOTES RELATING TO RAWLINS, OR ROLLINS WITH
NOTICES OF EARLY SETTLERS OF THE NAME IN AMERICA
AND FAMILY RECORDS OF THOMAS OF BOSTON, NICHOLAS
OF NEWBURY, WILLIAM OF GLOUCESTER
By John R. Rollins, A.M. 1870

ORIGIN OF THE NAME, Part I

The name ROLLINS is a corruption (or, as some might say, an improvement) of RAWLINGS, and has been in use in this country but little more than one hundred years. Prior to the American Revolution, it was written RAWLINS, which latter orthography prevails in England almost exclusively, to the present time. Of this change, abundant proof may be found.

1st: In the fact that on records in America prior to 1750, the name ROLLINS does not appear, but we find everywhere RAWLIN, RAWLINE, RAWLINS, RAWLINGS, etc.

2nd: In names of towns, e.g. Rawlinsburg, N.Carolina; Rawlingsville, Alabama; Rollinsford, N.H.; Rollin's Store P.O., N.Carolina; where, or in the vicinity of which, both forms of spelling have been adopted by different descendants, from a common ancestry.

The derivation of the name RAWLINS will be attended with more difficulty. No extended pedigree is known to exist, whereby the name may be traced with absolute certainty to its source, and we must consequently rely upon detached facts to aid us in our investigations.

Hereditary names were sometimes used before the Norman Conquest. Mr. Lower, in his treatise on English surnames, mentions several instances; and he goes on to say that their transmission to descendants came gradually into common use during the eleventh and the three following centuries. He adds, however, the unsettled state of surnames in those early times renders it a difficult matter to trace the pedigree of any family beyond the thirteenth century. As late as 1340 (13 Edward III)^① the commonalty^② were not possessed of hereditary family names, and even as late as the commencement of the 15th century there was great confusion. As for instance, a person who, in 1406, of the name of Fitz Hugh, which name did not settle down as a fixed appellative until the time of Edward III, thus, we read in succession,

Bardolph
Akaris Fitz Bardolph
Hervey Fitz Akaris
Henry Fitz Hervey
Randolph Fitz Henry
Hugh Fitz Randolph
Henry Fitz Randolph
Randolph Fitz Henry
Hugh Fitz Randolph
Henry Fitz Hugh (of course Fitz means "son of")

The last named was created a baron, assuming that name as his title, and giving it prominence as a family name. Where there were several sons in the family, instances are found where each brother assumed a different surname.

In a similar manner the Russians signified descent by the addition of WITZ, as Peter Paulowitz, meaning Peter son of Paul, etc. The word SKY added to names has similar import among the Poles.

The Welch used the word AP for the same purpose, e.g.

David AP Howell, meaning David, son of Howell
 Evan AP Rhys, meaning Evan, son of Rhys
 John AP Richard, meaning John, son of Richard

This was contracted at a later period into POWELL, PRICE and PRITCHARD.

Prior to the introduction of Parish Registers, in pursuance of the order of Cromwell, Vicar General under Henry VIII, most of the religious houses kept registers of public as well as private transactions in books called the "Chartulary", "Leiger Books", "Necrology, or Obituary", "Register", "Chronicle", etc. The "Obituary" was a parchment, or vellum, record of the death of Kings, Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priests, Monks, Benefactors and others, interspersed at times with biographical notes. The "Register" contained its members, revenues, possessions, patrons, their genealogies, names of persons buried in the precincts of the religious house, and of others married there. Unfortunately many of these records have been destroyed. On the general dissolution of the monasteries in England, many of the "Registers", with the Libraries, were sold, and it is said found their way into grocery shops, and other places, to serve for wrapping paper, or perhaps for kindling or other menial purposes. Even after Parish Registers were re-introduced, the custody of them was often entrusted to ignorant parish clerks, who had no idea of their utility, beyond their being occasionally the means of putting a shilling in their pockets for furnishing extracts. Besides this, the clergy were sometimes careless, negligent or forgetful. Fire destroyed some and wars interrupted others. And thus many valuable records which would throw light, not only on family, but on national history, have been irrecoverably lost.

The name Rawlins is an old name, has been a fixed surname with but slight variation in spelling certainly for more than five hundred years, and during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries seems to have designated a pretty numerous family.

Part II

③* ARMS OF THE RAWLINS FAMILIES

County of Essex

Arms granted, January 2nd, 1560, to Rawlins of Wakering in this county, viz: a fesse sable, fretty, or. in chief three pellets. Crest, a bear's head, couped, or. Thomas Rawlings, of this family, was high sheriff, and a brother apparently of Sir John Rawlins of Wakering, knight, who bore for his arms, argent, a fesse sable, fretty, or. in chief three pellets quattering argent, on a cross quarter pierced, gules, four fleur de lis, for Denham.

County of Norfolk

Rev. John Rawlins, thirty-three years rector at Attlebury, as before mentioned, bore for arms as appears from a mural monument against the east wall in Mortimer's chapel, the following, embracing his own as well as his wife's arms: "Argent, three leopards faces, sable, impaling three gray hounds, current, regardant sable."

County of Surrey

One Lionel Rawlins of Woking in this county was 11 years old at the time of the Herald's visitation in 1623. He was son of Lionel and Mary (Spenser) and grandson of John Rawlins of Berwick, County of Somerset, by Elizabeth, daughter of John Collins. Arms: gules, three swords fesseways, argent, hilts and pommels, or.

crest, a bull's leg couped, gules, fetlock, or. on the top of a bird's head of the second. A copy of this coat, since the visitation to John Rawlyns of Woking, dated 3rd February, 1623. 21st of King James by R.St.George Clarencieux. Lionel Rawlins, the elder of the two mentioned, was one of the commissioners appointed by Oliver Cromwell, and was a magistrate for Surrey, about 1650. These same arms were borne by a family of

County of Hereford

Granted in 1601, to Thomas Rawlins, M.D. of Kilreige, County Hereford, and Middle Temple, London, 1610, in which grant he is named as "of the old and noted family of Rawlins, County Hereford". Sable, three swords barways, points toward the sinister point of the escutcheon, ar.hilts and pommels, ar.crest, a bull's leg, couped near the body, sa. covered to the fetlock, ar. on the top a bird's head erased, gules. Motto: "In mercurio triumpho." From the herald's visitation of London in 1633-34, it appears that this Thomas Rawlins was son of Thomas Rawlins of London, Gentleman. (Thomas Rawlins, his majesty's chief engraver at the mint in 1660 was perhaps of this family.)

Thomas Rawlins, M.D., was a doctor of medicine of Cambridge (Clare Hall) of 1599, and was admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, 17th of March, 1600. He became a candidate for the fellowship in 1604, and was admitted a fellow, December 28th, 1605.

County of Kent

Colkins in Boughton under Blean, in the reign of George 1st, was purchased by Richard Stacey, master builder of the king's yard at Deptford, who built the present seat of Colkins. He died in 1757 and his daughter died in 1756. He was partly by sale and partly because of the marriage of his daughter Mary with Mr. Peter Rawlins of Sheerness, transferring his property to his son-in-law. The couple left issue two daughters, co-heirs, the eldest of whom, Mary, married Mr. Bisby Lambart, and Caroline the younger, married John Carter of Deal, Esquire. Arms of Peter Rawlins: sable, three swords in pale, the middlemost point in base, or.

Warwickshire

Stratford-upon-Avon. Thomas Rawlins, sergeant-at-law, died December 16, 1699. His only son, Edmund, died June 24, 1681, aged 21. His wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Bendish of Stowe Market in the County of Suffolk, Esquire, by Eliza Dudley, daughter of Edward Dudley of Clopton, in the County of Northampton, Esquire. Arms: three swords, in pale, bar-wise, empaling azure, a chevron between three ram's heads erased, argent.

At Salford Priors in Warwickshire under flat stones in the body of the church: "Here lieth the body of William Rawlins, gentleman, December 15, AO 1662; and Ann Mary, his wife, May 15, AO 1693." (She was Ann Mary Hedge.)

On another stone, (arms) three swords, in pale, bar, with a mullet: "Here lyeth Ann Mary, daughter to William Rawlins and Ann Mary, his wife, who was buried 3rd November, 1665. Also, William, their second son, who was buried 20th May, 1684." Elizabeth, daughter of William Sr., married Francis Taylor of Littleton, in Worcestershire, Gentleman, and died at Littleton 1706.

Hertfordshire

Arms: sable, three swords in pale, argent, two with their points in base, and the middlemost in chief; crest a sword erect. These arms are cut upon a monument in the north wall of the church in Lilley parish, with the following inscription: "Here lieth the body of Benjamin Rawlins, Knight, Lord of the manors of Lilley and Hexton, who died the 2nd of December 1775, at 98 years." He was sheriff of London in 1737. He was never married, and his five brothers, Henry, Robert, Samuel, John and Nathaniel, and his sister Elizabeth, all died without issue, before him.

County of Cornwall

Arms: Sable, three swords paleways, points in chief, argent, hilts and pommels, or. Crest, an arm embowed in armor, elbow resting on the wreath, holding in the gauntlet a falchion or; hilt or. Motto: "Cognosce Teipsum, et disce pati." The family bearing these arms was originally from Hertfordshire, and was for many generations officially connected with its city.

William Rawlings, Esq., an eminent merchant, distinguished alike for active philanthropy and literary attainments, married in 1763, Catharine, daughter of Christopher Warne, Esq., of St. Columb, and thence removed to Padstow, about the middle of the last century. Among the valuable family estates were manors of St. Columb, derived from the Wardour Arundels, and of Rialton from the Godolphins- (The latter, perhaps, through Ann Carew, who married _____ Rawlin. She was daughter and heiress of George Carew, descended from Walter de Windsor, who married Thomasine, daughter of Sir Francis Godolphin.) Mr. Rawlings died in 1795, greatly esteemed for his public and private virtues, leaving two sons; Thomas, his heir; William, of Exeter College, Oxford, M.A., forty years vicar of Padstow; married in May, 1787, to Susannah Salmon, and had issue: William, Henry Peter, Thomas, James, Charles, Mary, Susan, Anna and Caroline.

Mr. Rawlings died in 1820, and was succeeded by his son, William Rawlings, Esqu., of Padstow, a magistrate and deputy lieutenant for that shire. (None of his children or siblings came to America.)

Ireland

Arms of Rawlings: Sa, Three Swords, or; one in pale and two in saltire hilts and pommels or. In base, a crescent or. Crest, a lion's head, erased, gules.

Scotland

Arms of Rawling: Sable, a sword paleways, argent, hilt and pommel or.; between three mullets, pierced, or.

Older however, than all the foregoing, are the following Arms: Sable, three swords in pale, two with points in base, middle one in chief. Crest, an arm embowed in armor, holding a sword. Granted to Rawle, of Hennett, in St. Juliott, County of Cornwall, temporarily by Edward IV (1461-1483). But whether this was a special grant or confirmation of a previous one, is not stated. The herald's college was not incorporated till the subsequent reign of Richard III. The earliest visitation by heralds of the different parts of the kingdom of which any account is recorded was A.D. 1412, under Henry IV. Others are said to have been in the reign of Edward IV and Henry VII, and after 1528, every 25 or 30 years. Prior to the incorporation of the heralds' college, coat armor was sometimes the immediate gift of royalty, but oftener conferred by commanders on such as had earned it by valor on the battlefield, or given by noblemen to those who held estates under them, or followed their banners.

St. Juliott, commonly called St. Jilt, was situated in the hundred of Lesnewth, and deanery of Trigg Major. The manor of Tresparett, or Tresparvet, in this parish, belonged to William Rawle, Esquire, in whose family it was for many generations. He held also the manor Tremorill or Tremorville which belonged formerly to the baronial family of Bottreaux. Rawle settled at that barton as early as the reign of Edward III but from what part of England he came has not been ascertained. The site of the castle of Liskeard, with the manor, was sold soon after 1649, by order of parliament, to Ralph Margerey and Thomas Rawlings.

Similarity of arms usually denotes consanguinity; hence may be drawn the inference that RAWLINS, RAWLING or RAWLINGS is derived from RAWLE, the termination ING signifying offspring having been added to denote descent.

It would hardly seem probably that the granting of the same heraldic arms at different periods to RAWLE, RAWLINS and RAWLINGSON should be the result

of mere accident; but, on the contrary, it is quite likely that they were assigned with a knowledge on the part of the heralds' college of the connection and descent; and the variations in crests and mottoes were made to designate different branches from a common trunk or root.

Our next inquiry relates to the origin of RAWLE. Mr. Lower gives the christian name RALPH as the primitive of RAWES, RAWSON, RAWLINS AND RAWLINSON. This name RALPH, which became also a surname, is contracted from RUDOLPH or RADOLPH, signifying "helpe counsell", and RUDOLPH is the same as the French RAOUL.

Camden and Lower consider RAOUL and ROLLE synonymous, as does Mr. Lyson in his history of Cumberland, the names RAWLE and ROLLE.

ROLLE became a noted name and family in the 16th century, and later in Devonshire, and is traced back by Collins in his work on the Peerage to THOMAS ROLLE of Devonshire whose will, dated July 19, 1525, bequeaths property to the church of Wynborn Milster, Dorsetshire, where, as related by him, he was born. From him was descended Sir Henry Rolle, Knight, Sheriff of Devonshire (33 and 40 Elizabeth I); Henry Rolle, November 1648 (24 Charles I) Lord Chief Justice of King's Bench, deposed by Cromwell, 1655; John Rolle, Esq., member of the Long Parliament (Charles II) Knight of the Bath and Sheriff of Devonshire; John Rolle, Esq., member of the first, fourth and fifth parliament of Queen Anne, from the city of Exeter; also in the first and second Parliaments of George I, and was offered an earldom by Queen Anne's last ministry, which he refused; and Henry Rolle, Baron of Stevenstone, created January 8, 1747-8 (21 George II).

Of the family of RAWLINSON Mr. Burke in his "Landed Gentry" says it is of great antiquity in Westmoreland and Lancashire, the whole county in Furness being possessed by the Rawlinsons, Peningtons, Sawreys and Sandys. The several branches of the RAWLINGSON family of these counties were all connected together in the 15th century. They were severally descended from two brothers, William and Henry RAWLINSON, who fought under Henry 5th at Agincourt. From Walter descended Thomas, father of the last Abbot of Furness Abbey.

Arms: gules, gwo bars, gemelles between the three escalops, argent. Crdst, a drake ppr., in its beak an escalop argent.
Motto: "Festina lente"

Mr. Burke, after giving a pretty full account of this family, from which the above is extracted, says: "While some branches of this family adhere to the original arms, the Lord Commissioner, Sir William RAWLINSON, adopted the arms granted to his father, Captain WILLIAM RAWLINSON, for services in the civil wars when the gallantry of his ancestors Walter and Henry were commemorated with his own, by assigning three swords as armorial bearings.

If this name RAOUL be not the true origin of RAWLE and RAWLINS, etc., is it not a little singular that we find precisely the same gradation in France, viz., RAOUL, ROLLE RAOULYN, RAOULLIN, RAULIN and ROLLIN of more recent date, as for example RAOUL or RADOLPH or RALPHO, one of the dukes of Burgundy, seized the throne and became king of France, AD 923, never acknowledged by the southern provinces. RAOUL, Earl of Eu. (?) and Constable of France in the 14th Century, was sent to the defense of Tournay when besieged by the English in 1340. This name became a surname in France though long since obsolete in England, and was such in the latter part of the 18th century. RAOUL, a distinguished French general, served in 1795 in the Western Pyrenees and distinguished himself the same year at the head of many battalions on the banks of the Deba. It has been also used as a christian name, as has its synonym Ralph in England.

As in the English, the termination LIN may be a contraction of LIGNE, denoting lineage. The French word RAILIN is evidently the same as the English RAWLIN, inasmuch as the French alphabet has not the letter W. This comparison of names may be carried even further.

In view of the foregoing premises - similarity of name in the two countries - similarity of arms in England - early location - and other circumstances

which will be developed in the course of family history, enable us to draw an inference in the absence of absolute certainty (inference being more easily drawn than facts established), that the families of Rawle, Rawlins, Rswlinson, Rolle, Rollins, and Rollinson may be derived from some of the twenty or more Raouls who attended William the Conqueror to the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

The French name RAOUL is derived from, or is the same as ROLLO - originating probably with Rollo, the Scandinavian pirate, who conquered Neustria in the North of France and by treaty with Charles the Simple in 911 AD came permanently into possession of that district, married the daughter of Charles, and held Normandy as a vassal of the King, with the title of Duke of Normandy. He is styled variously by writers as Hrolf, Rolf, Raoul, Rollo. Crichton in his history of Scandinavia calls him Gaungo Rolf, or Rolf the Walker; another writer calls him Rolf the Marcher; because as he states he was of such immense size that no horse could carry him, and consequently all his expeditions by land were made on foot. Other writers call him Rollo or Raoul.

When he consented to receive the rite of Christian baptism, he took the name of Robert. His successor and heir, the second Duke of Normandy, was Raoul or Rollo, also baptised Robert.

The Duke of Burgundy, previously mentioned, AD 923, is called by Froissart and other writers Raoul, Rudolph or Ralpho. It would seem therefore, if credence is to be placed in these old writers, that Hrolf, Rolf, Ralph, Rudolph, Raoul, Rolla and Rollo, are all variations of the same name.

The arms of the American families of Rawlins^⑧ or Rollins^{*} may be described as follows:

Argent and gules alternate, thirteen stripes, quartering azure thirteen stars. Crest, an arm in armor holding in the gauntlet a falchion - Motto "Perseverando"

⑨ * The writer has record of 23 of the name who served their country in the early Indian wars, and in the French and Indian War...of fifty who were in the army of the revolution, of many who fought in the war of 1812, and more than one hundred, the majority of them descendants of James of Dover, who defended the flag in the Great Rebellion; the family being represented on all the important battle fields of the war.

EXPLANATIONS:

- 1 - 13 Edward III means the 13th year of the reign of Edward III, or 1340 A.D.
- 2 - Commonalty; the common folk
- 3 - a book on heraldy from the library will explain these terms
- 4 - 1624 A.D.
- 5 - 1591 and 1598 A.D.
- 6 - 1649 A.D.
- 7 - 1748 A.D.
- 8 - New England families only
- 9 - This paragraph does not take into account 99% of the southern families of this name who fought indians pre-revolution, served and died in the Revolutionary War in both the Continental army and the state militias, the War Between the States and any other wars that followed.