

The Historian

Bulletin of the
Richmond County Museum
Warsaw, Virginia

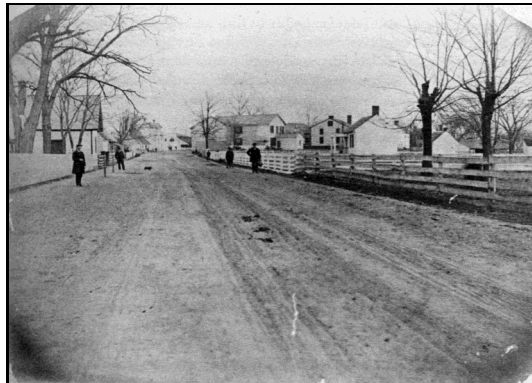


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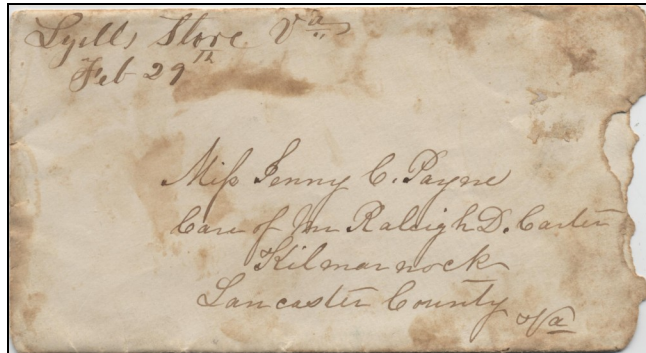
2020

My Darling Jennie

Four Letters to Jane Champ Payne of Warsaw, 1862–1873



Warsaw, looking east on Richmond Road before 1898. The gable end of the colonial tavern can be seen in the far background where the lines of the road converge.



The only envelope accompanying the letters to Jane Payne. Mr. Raleigh D. Carter would later become her husband. Lyell's Store Post Office was about four miles northeast of Warsaw at the junction of Highway 3 and Route 203, at Lyell's Corner, very near the north boundary of the county.

In 2018, Laine Miller of Midland, Texas, phoned Richmond County Museum. At an estate sale near her home, she had purchased four early letters that referenced Warsaw, Virginia and wondered if the museum would be interested. They soon arrived, all were written to Jane C. Payne. One from her father, Dr. Richard A. Payne, was written in 1862 from Lynchburg, Virginia. Two were from her young suitor, Walter J. Rains; the first to the twenty-two year old Jane was dated May 9th, 1866. Walter's second letter to Jane with the heading, Islington, October, 1873, proves that although seven years had passed since his letter of 1866, his affection for Jane had not cooled. Unfortunately he had made no real progress courting Jane who was soon to wed another. (Yet she kept his letters for the rest of her life.) A third letter, written in August of 1866 from her friend Luemma "Lou" Garland of Warsaw, provides a vivid snapshot of the village during the Reconstruction period

Jane Champ Payne was born in Richmond County on November 22, 1842, the only child of Dr. Richard Atkinson Payne (1819-1880) and Lucinda Peyton McCarty (1821-1895). Jane's parents were married in Richmond County in 1841 with consent given by William McCarty of Woodford, father of the bride. Dr. Payne was born in King George County and appears in Richmond County records in 1853, when a medical account was paid in settlement of the estate of Cornelius W. Barber. Dr. Payne enlisted in the Confederate Army, first serving as a private. He belonged to Companies F and S, 40th Regiment, Virginia Infantry and rose to the rank of surgeon. His 1862 letter to his daughter and wife in Warsaw, written while he was stationed in Lynchburg, expresses his severe homesickness and difficulties in finding housing and commodities. A transcription of his letter is available at the museum. Dr. Payne died in 1880 in Baltimore and was buried there.

In 1874, at the age of thirty, Jane C. Payne married Raleigh William Bowman Carter in Westmoreland County and the couple moved to Texas that year. They settled in Cooke county which is located in northern Texas on the Oklahoma border. When R. W. B. Carter died, Jane married his cousin, Robert William Carter and cared for his four daughters, her own children having died in infancy. Jane died at the age of 93 at her home four miles south of Gainesville, Texas on January 31, 1935. The following letter was written to the twenty-two-year-old Jane by Walter J. Rains.

“Oh heavens what a situation for a man to be placed in...”

Warsaw

May 9th, 1866 Richmond Co. Va.

My dear little friend Miss Jennie

It is with the deepest feelings of friendship, that I write these lines to you. You do not know how bad I want to see your bright and happy face. “I feel like one who walks alone some banquet hall deserted.”¹ Oh: how my heart throbbed with love when I enquired of Mr. Bayne how you were and he told me that he left you at his house and that you were well. What pleasure am I forbidden that others have known, and that is they look at you daly and I have to wait your arrival.

I intended to come down² on the 5th Sunday but I thought it would be contrary to your wishes and therefore I gave out the idea, not that I did not want to come and would start off this night could I believe that you cared to see me. Oh heavens what a situation for a man to be placed in. (to love and not be loved) but I am comforted by thinking that though it is hard on me yet it may be all for your happiness and you are assured by me that I care more for your pleasure that I do for mine and I feel that if my life was to be sacrificed for your wellfair it would all be right and I would willingly give it up. Please excuse me for getting on the same old track for I can’t help it.

I want to see you so much, for I know that your influence and kind advice I very much need. Miss Lou³ is going down with Mr. Bayne and I told her that I would come down after her and you. You must tell her not to be backward in letting me know when she desires to come home for it will give me great pleasure to come down after her. Believe me now as your devoted friend and admirer

Walter

Notes:

1. Line from a song lyric, “Oft, in the Stilly Night” by Irish poet Thomas Moore (1779-1852). “...I feel like one who treads alone some banquet-hall deserted, Whose lights are fled, Whose garlands dead, And all but he departed.” Moore expressed a similar sentiment in “The Last Rose of Summer.”
2. Jane may have been staying with Raleigh D. Carter in or near Kilmarnock in Lancaster county, perhaps caring for his children or keeping house. See envelope on page 1.
3. Luemma Fauntleroy Garland (1843-1924) of Warsaw whose letter to Jane Payne is included in this article.

Walter J. Rains was twenty-five when he wrote this letter to Jane Payne. He was born in Richmond County in 1841, the son of Alfred J. Rains and Elizabeth Webb. Alfred Rains died in 1845 and Walter and his brother, William Warren Rains, who was one year older, went to live in the home of their uncle, William Webb, and attended a school he conducted near Warsaw (1850 census). Walter enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 at age 20 and served as a private in Company B, 40th Regiment, Virginia Infantry, “Totuskey Grays.” In 1870, four years after this letter was written, Walter was living with his brother, William. Also in their household was Susan O. Rains, age 56, described as “keeping house.”



The Courthouse Bounds, Warsaw, looking west.



Governor Gilbert Walker



Court Day in Warsaw

“Please Write me a long, sweet comforting letter...”

Islington

Oct 20th 1873

My darling Jennie,

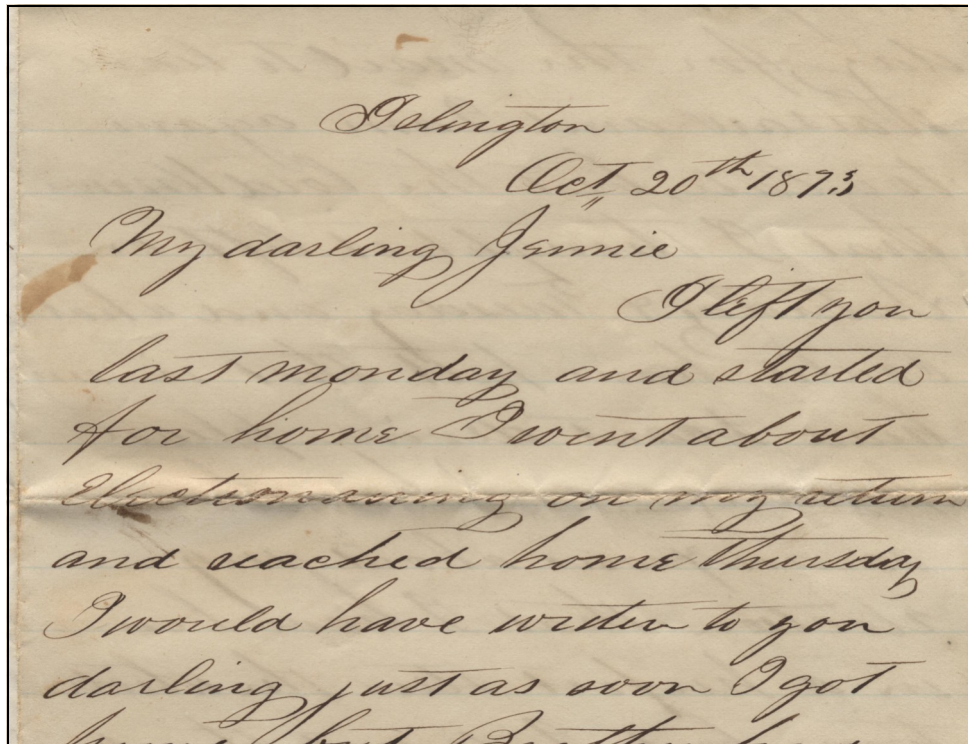
I left you last Monday and started for home. I went about Electioneering¹ on my return and reached home Thursday. I would have written to you darling just as soon as I got home but Brother² had used all the paper and I could not. Friday I went out to Warsaw and would have written that day but there was such a large crowd that I could not have written in any degree of satisfaction so I missed that mail. There believe me for it is the truth.

I have just this moment thought that this is the day for the mail to leave Warsaw and I am again too late, but the lord knows that I thought it left on Saturday and Tuesday and what put that in my head I can't divine. Please pardon me . I have been so anxious about my election that I have been in a perfect stew the whole time. But I do not think there is any doubt but what I will be the fortunate candidate. Governor Walker³ made a very fine speech Friday followed by a Mr. Berkley from Richmond large crowd was in attendance. There were a good number of ladies present. He spoke from the porch of Mrs. Neels⁴ lot. The ladies were inside the house. But precious I must turn to you the pride of my heart and beg your pardon for being so silly as to get offended just before I left you. Please don't think anything about it. I don't mind being humble to one as good as you and I have sent after your medocin and I hope soon to have you a large supply and as soon as it comes I will send it, no I will come and bring it to you. Darling as there is nothing going on in this section worthy of you notice that I know of. I got a letter from Mr. Jones⁵ My wood only brought \$4.75 which was very small after paying freight only left me \$2.75. I have in Baltimore \$167.00.⁶ I will be able this time to pay nearly all my Stewart⁷ claims. Remember me in all kindness to the Dr. and Mrs. Payne also to all who inquire after me. Please write me a long sweet and comforting letter and let me know your wants and desires and believe me to be as devoted to you as any one could possibly be to another.

Your,
Walter

Notes:

1. It is not known which office Walter Rains was seeking or if he was elected. His name could not be found in lists of county officials of the period.
2. Walter's only brother was William Warren Rains (1840-1914) who represented Richmond County in the Virginia House of Delegates (1874-77) and was treasurer of the county (1872-73). He moved to Bowling Green in 1879 and went into the drug business there. William W. Rains married Sarah Jeter Biscoe in Richmond county in 1862 and their son, Jeter B. Rains (1862-1926) was clerk of the court in Richmond county for 25 years.



Ancestry.com: U.S. census, marriage and family tree records

Find A Grave.com

Richmond County Virginia, 1776-1976, Elizabeth L. Ryland, editor, Warsaw, Virginia, 1976

Northern Neck News, Warsaw, VA

Virginia Citizen, Irvington VA

Thanks to :

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The Mission of the Richmond County Museum is to Preserve, Protect, and Interpret the Artifacts and Heritage of the County through its Exhibits, Programs, and Research.

Be sure to mail your 2020 membership if you haven't already done so. Individual, \$30, Family, \$35, Patron, \$75. Thanks!

Consider sustaining the museum through a gift in your Will or Trust. Call 804-333-3607 for more information.

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Lighting our
Tree of Love
To Honor Loved
Ones is a Tradition.



The tree on the
Courthouse Green will be illuminated
on the first Sunday in December, 2020.

Notes, continued.

3. Virginia Governor Gilbert Carlton Walker was a native of Pennsylvania who moved to Norfolk, in 1864. He served as a Republican provisional governor, 1869-70, and was the Democratic elected governor of Virginia from 1870 to 1874. His speech in Warsaw was probably in support of a local Democratic candidate.
4. Probably Mrs. Augustine Neale's home located on the northwest corner of Richmond Rd. and Main St.
5. Probably Judge Thomas Jones, Jr. Commonwealth's Attorney and father of Congressman William Atkinson Jones.
6. There was no bank in Warsaw until the Mumford Bank opened in 1902.
7. Perhaps a reference to stewards serving on the steamboat to Baltimore.

“Believing you would not object to hear from your old village and its people...”

Luemma “Lou” Fauntleroy Garland wrote the following letter to Jane C. Payne, then living in Baltimore:

Warsaw August 5 1866

My dear Jane

I have just returned from the Sabbath School¹ and while there I had the pleasure of reading a letter from you to your uncle and believing you would not object to hear from your old village and its people. I know of no change that has taken place since you left except Goby and Gundy² have whitened their stores and must not forget that the Doctor has been at that trade ever since Mr. Payne left. Poor Brak's visit will not be very pleasant to him. His oldest sister I understand died the night after he arrived at home. I do truly feel sorry for him. Walter escorted me from church, He was delighted to hear from his dear little Jennie. He is looking as if he missed that Jane very much. For his sake do not comply with Connie's request—for I do not want to see or hear of his death, he has been down in Farnham and Lancaster in the latter he intends to stay the months of Sept and October fishing.³ Bettie Alice was preparing last week to dine with the newly married couple Doctor Buckner but unfortunately was taken with a chill and is now quite sick. Mr. Sam Lyell and cousin Eilisham Came on the boat last night and I must tell you that Jim L. was at the church today. He heard that you were in B.(altimore) and called on you but was disappointed for you had left. Georgann's children are at cousin's. James' Martha is still beautiful. Mr. Hall⁴ has left the Doctor's and is at present boarding at the tavern. I am very much afraid that the bar is the attraction. The boys at Uncle Daniel's⁵ were beginning to treat me more fondly but I hear that the cause has returned on yesterdays boat and now what am poor miserable me to do? Lucy Sturman⁶ and myself spent the day with Willie Mitchell last Friday week she spoke of you often during the day. How is cousin Jonnie getting on? I sincerely hope he is engaged or married before this, for I believe he is one of Walter's rivals. The poor fellow brought over a mighty nice water melon last week and says I shall have some more tomorrow, he is determined to go to work soon.

Monday Morning Billie⁷ came up last evening and insisted on carrying Ma and myself down we went. Spent a very pleasant time. Uncle Daniel invited me to come down. When I got tired of my present boarding house and he would do any for me that he could, he is so very kind to me that I cannot dislike him if I were to try, after returning here Mr. Montgomery⁸ called to see me and is begging that I shall go to Baltimore next Wednesday. I cannot say I will at least I don't think I can. You will find within this a note from W. J. R.⁹ which I beg that you will honor with an answer Jane just think how thankfully a few lines if not more will be received by that poor boy. Answer it and you will make him happy. That is if it is written as it should be. I have not read it. Billie Garland sends his kindest regards, he is looking pale and delicate trying to after you I expect.

I reckon you are tired of reading this scratch and I will close by asking you to accept the kindest wishes of your own True friend

Lou Garland

Do answer this and give me all the news concerning yourself remember this must not be seen by any one except yourself and I will keep my promise. Lou

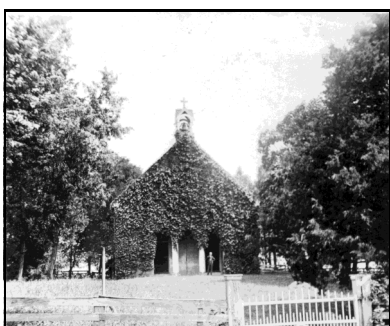
Notes:

1. This Sunday School was almost certainly at St. John's Episcopal Church, Warsaw. Rev. Andrew Fisher was rector from 1859 to 1871. He would officiate at the wedding of Lou Garland and Judson Montgomery in 1866. Under Rev. Fisher's leadership church membership increased and in 1867, it was reported that there were 60 teachers and scholars in the Sunday School. (Ryland, ed.) The present Warsaw Methodist Church building was not dedicated until 1874.
2. Benjamin Gundy and others purchased 80 acres adjacent to Shandy Hall, circa 1890.
3. Walter Rains continued to enjoy fishing. The Northern Neck News reported in July, 1885 that "... a fine opportunity was offered ... last week on Russes' Rock, as Mr. W. J. Rains and a friend succeeded in catching over three hundred pounds...(of) drum fish."
4. Probably Robert Hall (1830-1891) who was a school teacher, superintendant of schools and editor of the Northern Neck News until 1891. He married Mary Cornelia Jones, sister of Congressman William A. Jones.
5. William Daniel Garland (1823-1896) was the builder of Walnut Lawn which still stands near Warsaw. He is buried in the cemetery there. Five enslaved people are listed in his household of ten people in the 1830 census.
6. Lucy Bathurst Sturman (1841-1921) married Loren D. Warner, Jr. in 1880. She is buried in the Sturman family cemetery in Warsaw.
7. George William "Billie" Garland (1846-1910) was the son of William Daniel Garland of Walnut Lawn. He married Ada Virginia Saunders in 1879. They are buried in Farnham Baptist Church cemetery.
8. Adoniram Judson Montgomery (1842-1895) was married to Luemma "Lou" Fauntleroy Garland the author of this letter on August 8th, 1866, only a few days after it was written. She was 21 and he was 23.
9. Walter J. Rains

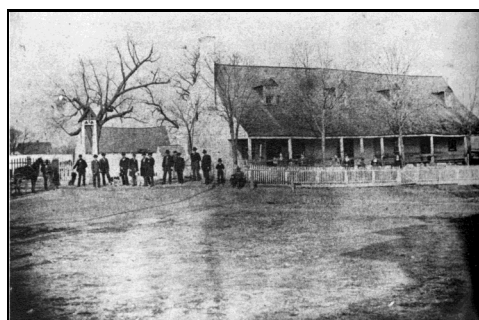
Luemma Fauntleroy Garland was born in Richmond County in 1843, the daughter of Moore Fauntleroy Garland (1821-1856) and Elizabeth P. (Cooke) Garland. (1820-1852). Moore was the brother of William Daniel Garland of Walnut Lawn. On August 8th, 1866 in Warsaw, Lou married Adoniram Judson Montgomery, a mechanic and carpenter then living in Baltimore. The couple had ten children in 21 years. Lou Garland died in 1924 at the age of 80 and was buried beside Judson in St. John's Episcopal Church cemetery in Warsaw.

Walter J. Rains never married; perhaps he felt no one could equal his "Darling Jennie." Remaining in Richmond county, he was a farmer and teacher in the public schools. He spent the Christmas holidays of 1898 with the family of his only brother, William W. Rains in Bowling Green. Besides fishing, he also enjoyed hunting; in November, 1899, he "sold his setter dog to Dr. Hill of Baltimore for a handsome gold watch and a double barrel breech-loading gun." (*Northern Neck News*) Walter maintained his interest in politics and in 1907, the year of his death, he was described as "a prominent Republican." (*Virginia Citizen*) Walter J. Rains died at the age of 66 and was buried in the family cemetery at Millwood near Farnham.

David Jett



St. John's Episcopal Church, Warsaw: "I just returned from the Sabbath School..."



The Warsaw Tavern: "I am very much afraid that the bar is the attraction." (For Mr. Hall boarding there.)



Walnut Lawn, home of the Garlands near Warsaw: "Uncle Daniel invited me to come down."

Dr. Richard A. Payne enlisted in the Confederate Army, first serving as a private. He belonged to Companies F and S, 40th Regiment Virginia Infantry and rose to the rank of surgeon.

The Mr. Crowder mentioned as being with him in Lynchburg was Joseph A. Crowder, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman who would have been twenty-five when the letter was written. He was living in the Dr. R. A. Payne household in Richmond County in 1860, according to the federal census. By 1870 he had left Warsaw and married in Rockfish, Nelson County, Virginia,

