

2.3 THE RAINEY FAMILY of ANNALITTIN and NEWTOWNHAMILTON

Sarah's father Walter Rainey was born about 1789. He married his wife Sarah on 4 September 1813. We do not know Sarah's maiden name. Walter's farm adjoined that of Young Hamilton and later that of Andrew Hamilton. He is reputed to have operated a small shop from his farm and it is still referred to today as "*Rainey's wee shop*."¹ In those days the farms were much smaller and more people lived close by. The ruins can be seen today. They are overgrown and deteriorating badly. They are located on the bend in the road to Andrew Hamilton's Annalittin farmhouse which is about 200 metres away.



Ruins of Walter Rainey's House on the bend near the Hamilton Farmhouse

Sarah's mother also named Sarah, died on 20 December 1856 "*after a long and painful illness which she bore with Christian patience*."²

Walter Rainey died on 27 March 1875 at Carrickaslane, County Monaghan. The cause of death was shown as Senile Decay. Uncertified.

¹ David McCully Church Hill Co. Monaghan

² Rainey/Burns Bible in possession of Kenneth Kirby, Ballykinler, Co. Downpatrick.

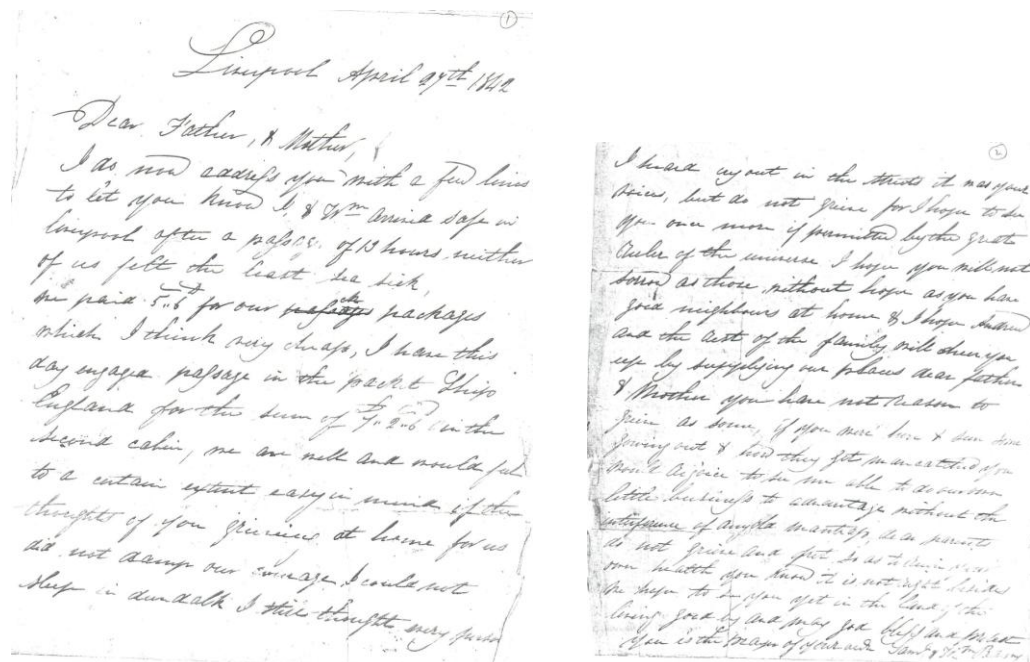
Walter and Sarah had seven children:

Samuel born 20 July 1814

In April 1842 Samuel with his brother William left Ireland for the United States, sailing first to Liverpool. The passage from Dundalk took 13 hours and cost them 5/6. On 27 April they booked and paid for their passage on the Packet Ship *England* at a cost of 7 Pounds 2 Shillings & 6 Pence. We believe they both stayed in New York but unfortunately both of them died the same year. The cause was believed to be Tuberculosis and their deaths left a lasting impact on the family especially in seeking to avoid the disease themselves in their own families.

Samuel died on 12 October 1842 at Manhattan New York, USA.

We are fortunate to have a letter written by Samuel to his parents dated 27 April 1842³.



Samuel 1842 Letter Page 1

Samuel 1842 Letter Page 2

In view of the poor quality of the original letter we have typed a readable copy:

Dear Father and Mother

Liverpool 27th April 1842

I do now address you with a few lines to let you know I & Wm arrived safe in Liverpool after a passage of 13 hours neither of us felt the least sea sick. We paid 5/6 for our packages which I think very cheap.

I have this day engaged passage in the packet ship *England* for the sum of L7/2/6 in the second cabin.

We are well and to a certain extent easy in mind of the thought of you grieving at home for us did not damp our courage. I could not sleep in Dundalk. I still thought every sound I heard cry out in the streets it was your voices but do not grieve for I hope to see you once more if permitted by the great ruler of the universe. I hope you will not sorrow as those without hope as you have good neighbours at home & I hope Andrew and the rest of the family will cheer you up

³ Rainey Burns Bible Papers

by supplying our places. Dear father and mother you have not reason to grieve as some, if you were here and seen some gowing (sic) out & how they get me uncached you would rejoice to see me able to do all our little business to advantage without the interference of any old mantraps, dear parents do not grieve and fret so as to ruin your own health. You know it is not right besides we hope to see you yet in the land of the living good by and may god bless and protect you is the prayer of your own

Sam'l & Wm Rayney

PS

Dear John I did not receive the letter you were to send but I hope to get one from you in New York. Good by good brother John

Yours S

Sam'l Rayney

Andrew born 23 February 1817 died 29 October 1887 Co. Monaghan. Andrew died at age 70 from Heart Disease which he had for 10 years. He was in the Monaghan Asylum. Andrew never married.

Mary Jane born 22 November 1819 died 15 January 1869 at Newtownhamilton Co. Armagh. She was 49 years old and she rented a house in Dundalk St. Newtownhamilton. We believe that she had a shop beneath the house. The building was the second house from Newry St (Market Square) and five doors from the Burns House. Griffith Valuation recorded the Building Value as 6 Pounds 10 Shillings which was significantly higher than most others in the street. It must have been very substantial. Mary Jane died of Pneumonia which she had for 10 days. Her brother John Rainey came from Killucan to be present at her death.

William born 13 Aug 1822 died 25 Aug 1842 in the Manhattan, New York, USA. William went to the USA with his brother Samuel on the packet ship *England*.

Both William and Samuel were buried in a Presbyterian Cemetery in Manhattan, New York in 1842. Later in 1853 their father Walter received a letter, dated 15 December 1853, from Andrew Blyth, who was a member of the congregation. This advised that because of the rapid development on Manhattan and the need to increase housing it was necessary to close the cemetery exhume the bodies of all buried there and reinter them at a new cemetery.

Walter agreed and Andrew advised in a letter of 27 July 1854:⁴

"I had the remains of your two sons removed and interred in Macphelah Cemetery⁵ after much trouble with all the attention care and safety even possible the coffins were as firm and steady as new. I know nothing of their contents though I assisted in raising and then in lowering them both in large new strong boxes – the plates were legible Saml was aged 29 yrs while the stone of white marble reads – Sacred to the memory of Saml Rainey who died Aug 25th 1842 aged 28 yrs also Wm Rainey who died Nov 12th 1842 aged 21 yrs – it stands about 4 feet by 1 ½ wide 2

⁴ Letters were in possession of John Rainey and handed down to Donald Wright who provided them to Philip Watt. Our thanks to both of them,

⁵ Note: This is listed as Machpelah Cemetery, 5810 Tonnelles Ave, North Bergen, New Jersey, USA

in thick at foot small one with SR WR they were not brought at first but I was over since and they are placed in the best possible manner. Soon after that Moore Kilpatrick had his 2nd wife laid side by side with them while Wm Eikins is at their head. They now lay thus

S & WR II MK

WE II wife

In a later letter to John Rainey on 23 October 1854, Andre Blyth wrote:

"I wrote to your Father as aforesaid giving him several accounts together with that of the removal of Saml & Wm Rainey and the expense consignment there from being 11 dollars and I have only to add for your information that if it had been the best beloved of my own family I could not have them interred more to my satisfaction. There are very few remaining in the Old Burying Ground though it is not yet broken up as there is little improvement making in this city this year."

In a further letter on 7 December 1854 Andrew Blythe complained that he had been overpaid:

"I had to complain in my last of too many thanks and now of too much money, I wrote to your Father for 11 dollars i.e. £2.5.10 in which none could be ignorant. I have been something like aggravated to receive 14 dollars and 40 cents. I thought I had for once in my life obliged a friend. But being overpaid took away my self-congratulation. Your order I got discounted at 4 cents or 2d a pound discount one cent for ½ British ?Gold goes 2d per pound more. However, when I made an exact calculation it run thus

<i>for Coffin cases . .</i>	<i>. \$4. 0c</i>
<i>for Exhuming . . .</i>	<i>\$2. 0c</i>
<i>to a Waggoner . .</i>	<i>. \$2 .0c</i>
<i>passage of Do . . .</i>	<i>\$0.22c</i>
<i>Grave digging . . .</i>	<i>\$1 75c</i>
<i>for going errands same day</i>	<i>\$0.15c</i>
<i>Placing of stones</i>	<i>\$0.75c</i>
<i>Carriage hire going to cemetery</i>	<i>\$1 50c</i>
<i>Stage fare, going to see stones set</i>	<i>\$0 53c</i>
<i>From 3 pounds</i>	<i>14.40</i>

*Or total expense 12.90
Left \$1.50"*

These letters have clarified the dates of death of Samuel and William and identified where they are buried. The sad deaths of both brothers in such a short time after they left Ireland must have been heart rending for the family.

John born 3 May 1825 died 5 August 1909 at Newtownhamilton Co. Armagh

John was born at Castleblaney. He received and MA from Glasgow in 1849.

He taught at the Philp's Institution Pathhead in 1858 and also later in 1878 he told Dorothea that he was teaching then. He was Licensed at Bally Bay 9 May 1865, after having completed his

theological studies. A person is usually licensed in their home congregation so he was most likely living there at the time. At this service he would have signed the Westminster Confession of Faith. John was ordained a Minister of Killucan Presbyterian Church on 29 March 1866 and remained there until he died on 5 August 1909.⁶



John Rainey



John Rainey



⁶ Presbyterian Historical Society, Belfast Northern Ireland

Killucan Manse 1905

Sarah was born 16 September 1829. She married John Hamilton on 4 April 1850, 1st Presbyterian Meeting House, Castleblayney, Parish of Muckno, died 4 June 1895 at Newtownhamilton, Co. Armagh,



Sarah Rainey Hamilton. John Hamilton's wife.

Elizabeth was born 16 May 1833 died 4 February 1869 at Newtownhamilton Co. Armagh. She was aged 35 years. The cause of death was "Typhus Fever" which she had for 15 days.⁷ John Rainey was also present at her death. Her occupation was a Shopkeeper and she never married.

⁷ Death Certificate