

Hanna Rion was born in Winnsboro, S.C. on July 11, 1875. Her father was James Henry Rion, a distinguished attorney raised in the household of John C. Calhoun. Col. Rion, as he was known, served the Confederacy from the firing on Fort Sumter and was wounded severely at Cold Harbor in 1864. After the war, he achieved business success in various banking and railroad interests. He was married (date unknown still) to Mary Catherine Weir Rion, a writer.

Hanna Rion was educated at the College for Women, Columbia, S.C. and in Berlin. She married LeRoy Atwood Williams (date unknown) first. He either died or they were divorced. She then married illustrator Frank Ver Beck sometime early in this century, having studied art with him and worked with him on some of his children's books. They must have divorced for, on June 1, 1921, she married the Rev. Alpheus Baker Hervey in Bath, Maine. She died May 4 (possibly May 5), 1924. I have not found a record of any children.

Hanna Rion was a writer with a British weekly, and then wrote magazine articles and ten books, both fiction and non-fiction. She was also an artist, painting watercolors that were

exhibited in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and London. She was an avid gardener, writing two books about the garden she made with Ver Beck in Walkill, N.Y., on the west bank (inland) of the Hudson. Hanna Rion was deeply interested in the issue of medicated childbirth, perhaps arising from her service during World War I at a maternity hospital. She wrote two books about "twilight sleep."

Hanna Rion maintained a winter home, "The Cocoon", Warwick East, in Bermuda. She died and was buried in Bermuda.

Dear Mr. Branding;
Mrs. Begg sent me the above "brief-summary"
in a letter. I understand she has sent you a
fuller letter with more complete information, but
no zeroes, so here are what I have.
If you could let me know of any further
information you and the ladies may come up
with or that Mrs. Begg may have to add
to the complete (or at least more complete) picture
of Hanna Rion, I will be most grateful.
Always, once talking to you on the phone,
Sincerely,
William Beal