

James H. Rion, Colonel in Confederate Army

Born in Montreal April 17, 1828

Father was Henry Rion, an engineer in the English Army who died Dec. 7, 1828, aged 42 - James Henry Rion was a posthumous child.

His mother was Margaret Hunter Rion, of Liverpool. She was for years the housekeeper and business manager at Fort Hill for John C. Calhoun. Willie Calhoun and James Rion were "whipped with the pane switch."

Aug. 12, 1861 Margaret Rion became matron of the Midway Hospital at Charlottesville, Va. She died of typhoid Jan. 1, 1863 and is buried in Charlottesville.

James H. Rion and Willie Calhoun were roommates at South Carolina College. While a senior Rion was appointed to deliver Calhoun's eulogy on May 6, 1850. He was first Honor man in his class.

(When he was 12 years old he had gone through algebra and geometry, and at 14 he had completed the entire mathematical course with the exception of calculus, having studied analytical and descriptive geometry in the French language.)

In 1851 offered chair of mathematics at W. Zion Institute in Winnsboro. In 1854 admitted

~~Colonel James H. Rice, of Nagood's South Carolina Brigade.~~  
to the Winnsboro bar -

"In 1858 elected Colonel of the 25<sup>th</sup> regiment, militia,  
In 1859, President of the Planters Bank of Fairfield, In 1861  
Colonel of the 6<sup>th</sup> regiment of S.C. volunteers. He resigned  
in June, 1861 and in Sept. raised a company for the war,  
there being at that time no volunteer company in the State for  
over twelve months - 5 companies organized. P. M. Nelson  
became Colonel & Rice a Major." Col. Nelson was killed  
in 1864 on June 24 and Rice became Colonel - he had  
been promoted for gallantry on June 18 by Pres. Davis.  
He declined an offer of brigadier general by the  
Sec. of War.

He was in 22 battles. Wounded twice.

After the war returned to Winnsboro &  
resumed practice of law in May 1865.

Delegate to Constitutional Convention 1865

Member of National Democratic Executive Com. for S.C. 1876

In 1877 with Gen. Kershaw & others went to Washington in

a member of the Hampton Committee.

Chairman of board of trustees of Mt. Zion. Trustee of  
S.C. College from 1855 until his death. Gave a  
scholarship to 3 young men through the Clariosophic  
Beneficiary Scholarship.

General Counsellor of the Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta  
railroad, general solicitor of the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta  
Railroad, and advising counsel of several railroad companies.  
Solicitor of the National Bank of Washington, & attorney for  
the Minors town council. He died Dec. 12, 1886

He married Mary Catherine Weir, daughter of  
Samuel Weir, a Columbia journalist. She was a  
talented musician and was the author of "~~A Southern~~  
~~Lady's~~ "Ladies Southern Florist".

## Hanna Rion

Born: July 11, 1875 in Winnsboro, A. C.

Father: Col. James Henry Rion, attorney, banker, officer in Confederate Army, 7<sup>th</sup> A. C. Battalion, Company B. He was born April 17, 1828 in Montreal, Canada, son of Henry and Margaret Hunter Rion. He was brought as a child by his mother, his father having died the month before he was born, to Savannah, Georgia, where he was educated at Chatham Academy, under Elliott Pynchon. Around 1843 he moved with his mother to Pendleton, A. C. and he was a student there at Pendleton Male Academy under Robert M. Kenwick. His mother was hired as housekeeper by John C. Calhoun at his home, Fort Hill. James Henry Rion was first honor graduate in 1850 from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S. C. He was engaged to teach at Mount Zion College in Winnsboro, A. C. in 1851. He taught Mathematics and History and was in charge of the military training of the students. He became a member of the South Carolina Bar in 1854.

He served with distinction in the War and was wounded three times.

Mrs. Margaret Hunter Rion, the mother of James Henry Rion, served as matron of Midway Confederate Hospital in Charlottesville, Va. and she died of typhoid fever Jan. 1, 1863 and is buried in Charlottesville.

Colonel Rion died Dec. 12, 1886, in Winnsboro and is buried in Zion Presbyterian Cemetery.

Hanna Rion's mother was Mary Catherine Weir Rion who was born March 16, 1829, in Sparta, Georgia. She was the daughter of Samuel Weir Jr., who was born Feb. 15, 1798 in Pennsylvania, and his wife Margaret Mavor Weir (she died July 1, 1862, aged 74 years, and is buried in St. Augustine, Fla.) Samuel Weir Jr. was the son of Samuel Weir Sr.

(born Sept. 29, 1744 in County Antrim, Ireland, and died Aug 15, 1820) and Mary Wallace Weir (born ~~by~~ Sept. 8, 1765, died Nov. 4, 1836).

Mary Catherine Weir Rion's father was editor of a newspaper, The Southern Chronicle, in Columbia, S.C., where he died June 9, 1847, aged 49 years. Buried in First Presbyterian Cemetery,

Columbia, S.C. Upon the death of her father, Mary Catherine Weir was invited to live with the William C. Preston Family. Mr. Preston was president of the University of South Carolina. It was here that she met James Henry Rion, who was a student at the University at this time.

Their marriage took place Dec. 11, 1851 in Harrisburg, Pa. at the home of her uncle, J. W. Weir, who was a banker.

James Henry and Mary Catherine Rion had nine children:

Preston (1852-1923) married Sallie Hoffman

<sup>Hunter</sup> Margaret (1854-1918) never married

Florida Calhoun (1856-~~1883~~<sup>1923</sup>) m. Jacob Thomas Barron

Kitty (1858-1883) married James Fleming McMaster

William Calhoun (1861-1889) m. Mary Lucille Addison

Holbrook (1863-1920) m. Helen F. Berry

Lucy Tenney (1866-?) m. Lawrence Warren Edwards,

Henry W. Boozes and Robert L. Clark

John Weir (1869-1872)

Hanna (July 11, 1874 - May 5, 1924)

married

# 1 Winfield V. Abell on June 7, 1894 - he was her piano teacher at college.

# 2 Leroy Atwood Williams on Dec 13, 1899

# 3 Frank Ver Beck

# 4 Rev. Alpheus Baker Hervey on June 1, 1921

Child of Hanna Rion and LeRoy A. Williams:  
Theresa b. March 20, 1895  
d. June 5, 1927

Hanna was considered a very fine pianist.  
She was also a composer - as well as being  
a writer and artist. (I own one of Hanna Rion's  
pieces, called Red Sabot - Published in 1900.)  
Hanna died May 5, 1924 in Bermuda.

Helle McMaster Spcott  
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