

On Saturday 11th Dec. 1886 about 2 o'clock P. M. I was requested by Col. Jas. H. Rion to come down and dine with him as it was the 35 anniversary of his wedding day.

I reached his home about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock and almost immediately sat down to dinner. There was none but his family present with the exception of myself. I mentioned during the course of dinner that I wished to examine some urine under his microscope, to which he readily assented. After eating we sat around the fire and smoked a cigar. When he directed the microscope to be placed upon the dining table and it then being near dark, he inquired for the lamp which he was in the habit of using and when that was gotten ready he stepped toward the table for the purpose of arranging the instrument. Almost immediately he placed his hand upon his chest over the region of the heart, exclaiming "my what a pain", "what a pain, Angina". We seated him on a chair and he leaned his head upon the table for a few minutes. When he raised his head from the table the expression was fearful, his skin was as white as marble and as cold, while large globules of sweat stood upon his face and he kept on exclaiming my what pain, how I suffer. We then laid him upon a lounge near by and I administered different remedies until the brunt of the attack passed off. When comparatively relieved he requested to be raised to a sitting position supported on either side by his two sons Willie and Holbrook. He spoke of the distribution of his property and expressed to Mrs. Rion his wishes regarding it. Mrs. Rion being hard of hearing it was necessary to repeat to her what was said and Willie or myself performed that duty. After finishing about his property he said "I have a secret, a great secret, I hardly know how to tell it, but I want you to understand that if I recover it must never be mentioned or alluded to in any way". He then said I am the son, Willie interrupted him and said "Yes Father we know". He replied, "but you don't know, I am the son of Louis XVII. My Father was the Dauphin of France. He was supposed to have died and was buried, but when the grave was examined there were no remains in it. The Duchess D'Orleans substituted a deaf and dumb boy in his place, and he bearing the name of Rion (to prevent his being assassinated) was sent to Montreal, Ca. My Father lived in Montreal and later in life married a Miss Hunter daughter of Col. Hunter in the British army. She was uneducated but was a handsome woman. My Father married her so as to have sons. I was baptized in the Catholic Cathedral. At my Father's death I was turned over to Mr. Calhoun, the then Sec. Of War with papers substantiating my claims so that he could prosecute them. He said also that papers substantiating this claim would be found in the records of the Austrian Court. That he did not know of these facts until he was 21 years of age when he was pledged to secrecy and forbidden to take any steps to convey him back. That when he was baptized a glass cross was placed around his neck, that a snuffbox which he possessed surmounted with jewels was once owned by the Duc D'Orleans and that the jewels represented a crown whilst the O stood for Orleans, that a ball known in the family as the French ball was one of his play things, that the tureen silver had belonged to the Orleans family and that all of these things formed a part of the proof of what he was saying. That by looking in his Bible we would find that the date of his Birth and I think his Father's death would be found recorded in Kings I x II.

He further said that Mrs. Rion had often expressed a wish to have the diamonds in the snuff box set for jewelry but he directed her not to do so unless there was absolute need as it was an important link in the chain of evidence.

He dwelt upon the importance of these things as evidence and insisted that no effort was to be made by Preston his eldest Son to establish his claim unless a French Man of War was sent over for him which would be a virtual acknowledgement of the right.

He stated also that he had always refused any civil office because taking the oath would invalidate his claim, that military honors he was always fond of and did not refuse. In answer to a question as to who would succeed to this right he replied Preston his eldest son and after him Jimmie his Preston's son. He was anxious to know if I thought this narrative of his was the result of a delusion produced by morphine, fear of death or from any other extraneous cause. I replied no, that his word was sufficient for me.

He then dismissed the subject except once again to ask the question if I thought fear had anything to do with it and then went on to say that he had never experienced the sensation of fear but once in his life, that his passions were controlled by his Judgment, that he had been in many battles but never had felt fear except once when retiring from the lines before Petersburg he experienced a sensation which was different from any ever felt before and he knew it was fear.

These questions and accounts of his sensations were to test my opinion of his calmness and accuracy of his statements.

He was then seized with a chill or rigor and again complained of the chest. After heating him with bottles of water and rubbing him he sank into a sleep from which he would never be aroused. I had laid down near the bed on a lounge to rest myself & suppose must have dropped to sleep for after 2 o'clock I knew nothing until I was aroused by Mrs. Rion saying that she believed that Col. Rion was dying. I immediately went to the bed side and placing my hand upon the pulse found it extinct and his breath came in gasps. I tried to arouse him by injecting him with ether and shaking him by the shoulders but it was of no avail. At 3:15 o'clock he sank to rest as peacefully and quietly as an infant. I should have stated that it was at 3:15 AM on Sunday the 12th of Dec 1886 that he died.

On Tuesday the 14th of Dec. 1886 he was buried in the Churchyard of the Presbyterian Church at Winnsboro, So. Car. attended to his last resting place by the Gov. of the State, Hon. J. P. Richardson, Genl. Haygood, Judge Haskell, and numerous delegations of different bodies of which he was a member. His funeral services were conducted by the celebrated Dr. Woodrow and he was laid in his grave by the Masonic Society of this place.

I have endeavored to set forth all of the prominent facts without going into detail of the last will of this truly great and noble man. I have set down nothing but what I am positive he said and endeavored to give his language as far as I could.

Sworn to before me Dec. 22nd 1886

W. H. Kerr  
C.S.P. }

R. B. Hanahan M. D.

(Note 6)

Louis XVI  
b 6/23/1754  
d 1/21/1793  
m 5/16/1770  
Marie Antoinette  
b 11/2/1755  
d 10/16/1793

Marie Therese  
b 12/1/1778  
d 10/13/1851  
m 1799  
Duke of Angouleme  
b 8/6/1775  
d 6/8/1844

Louis Joseph  
b 10/22/1781  
d 6/4/1789

Louis XVII  
(Henri de Rion) (12)  
b 8/27/1785  
d 8/7/1828  
m 5/26/1827  
Margaret Hunter (13)  
b 12/1/1810 (England)  
d 1/1/1865

Sophie Helene  
b 7/9/1786  
d 6/19/1787

James Henry Rion  
(L.H.d'O.C. H.,V.)  
b 4/17/1828 (Canada)  
d 12/12/1886  
m 12/11/1851  
Mary Catherine Weir (14)  
b 8/16/1829  
d 7/1/1901

Preston  
b 11/4/52  
d 1928  
m 12/26/77  
Sallie  
Hoffman  
b 19/27/56

Margaret H. Florida  
b 8/25/54  
d 4/8/18  
Calhoun  
b 10/21/50  
d 8/14/28  
m 12/11/79  
J.F. Barron

Kitty  
b 9/14/58  
d 8/29/88  
m 2/25/82  
James  
Fleming  
McHaster  
b 2/7/52

Willie  
Calhoun  
b 8/19/61  
d 8/10/89  
m 8/20/64  
Mary Lucille  
Addison  
b 1867  
d 5/20/1928

Helbreck  
b 4/19/68  
d 1929  
m 4/29/85  
Helen I.  
Berry

Lusy  
Tenney  
b 2/27/66  
m 12/10/88  
L.E. Edwards  
b 9/8/65  
d ?  
m 11/12/7  
H.W. Decker  
m 6/12/10  
E.K. Clark  
b 1/18/76

John  
Weir  
b 6/17/89  
d 9/24/72

Hanna  
b 7/11/74  
d 5/5/24  
m 8/7/94  
W.V. Abell  
m 12/15/89  
Leroy A.  
Williams  
m ?  
Dr. Alphonse  
Baker  
Horvay

For children of J. F. Barron, see Main Chart.  
For children of other sisters and brothers, see Note 6A.

James Hunter  
b  
d 8-20-1828  
m  
Margaret Hunt  
b  
d

Louis (XVII) Charles  
(Henri de Rion)  
b 3-27-1785  
d 3-7-1828  
m Margaret Hunter  
b 12-1-1810  
d 1-1-1863

James Henry (de) Rion  
b 4-17-1828 MONTREAL  
d 12-12-1886  
m 12-11-1851  
Mary Catherine Weir  
b 3-16-1829  
d 7-1-1901 READING, Pa

PRESTON  
b 11-4-1852  
d 1923  
m 12-26-1877  
SALLIE HOFFMAN  
b 10-27-1854

MARGARET HUNTER  
b 8-25-1854  
d 4-8-1919

FLORIDE CALHOUN  
b 10-21-1856  
d 3-16-1923  
m 12-11-1879  
JACOB THOMAS BARRON  
b 5-20-1854

KITTY  
b 9-24-1858  
d 8-29-1983  
m 2-23-1882  
James Fleming  
McMaster  
b 2-7-1852

WILLIAM CALHOUN  
b 3-19-1861  
d 8-10-1889?  
m 8-20-1884  
MARY LUCILE ADDISON

HOLBROOK  
b 4-19-1863  
d 1920  
m 4-29-1885  
HELEN I BERRY

LUCY TENNEY  
b 2-27-1866  
(see page 2)

JOHN WEIR  
b 7-17-1869  
d 9-24-1892

HANNA  
b 7-11-1874  
d 5-5-1924 (HAMILTON)  
(BERMUDA)  
m 6-7-1894  
WINFIELD V. ABELL

JAMES H. RION, JR  
b 9-30-1878  
d 1-16-1935 TRYON, N.C.

GEORGE HOFFMAN  
b 6-5-1881  
d -1923

FLORIDE CALHOUN  
b 8-24-1882

JACOB THOMAS  
b 5-22-1884

KITTY WEIR  
b 12-1-1885

DOROTHY  
d 6-19-1895

KITT RION McMASTER  
b 8-29-1883

WILLIAM CALHOUN, JR  
b 6-15-1885  
d 10-11-1933

MARGARET HUNTER  
b 9-25-1886

LUCILE  
b 1888  
d 1889

TAYLOR RION  
b 2-12-

KITTY  
b 6-19-1888

HELEN  
b 8-13-

M 12-13-1899  
LEROY A. WILLIAMS  
NEWARK, N.J.

THERESA  
b 3-20-1895  
d 6-5-1927

JOHN DANIEL EDWARDS  
b 12-7-1838  
d 12-18-1910  
m 4-24-1862  
EMMA CATHERINE WARREN  
b 12-28-1834  
d 1922

LUCY TENNEY RION  
b 2-27-1866  
d  
m 12-10-1885

LAWRENCE WARREN EDWARDS  
b 9-13-1863 WALTERBORO S.C.

m 11-12-  
HENRY W. BOOZER

m 6-12-1910  
ROBERT KNOX CLARK  
b 1-16-1876

DAUGHTER  
b 9-19-1890

SON  
b 3-8-94

LUCY RION EDWARDS  
b 2-26-1887 WALTERBORO, S.C.  
d 11-20-1920 12N Ocala, FL  
m  
LOUIS AUGUST GAZEL  
b 8-9-1885

MARY CATHERINE EDWARDS  
b 11-11-1888  
d 10-11-1906  
m 12-5-1905  
SABBY CHAPLAIN WILLIAMS

HAROLD OLIVER WILLIAMS  
b 9-12-1906  
d 1-23-1907

LOUIS EDWARDS  
b 7-13-1908  
m 12-17-1933  
VERN DEE WALLACE

Lucy Veen

PERCIVAL ERNEST  
b 6-30-1910 LAKELAND, FL  
d 9-11-1943 MARCH FIELD, CA  
m  
ROBERTA MACE JACQUES  
b 11-2-1913 HUNTSVILLE, AL

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GEORGE DESAUSSURE  
b 10-10-1912

m  
JAUNITA

JUDITH ANNE  
b 7-22-36

GEORGE

RION

LAWRENCE DERION  
b 7-7-15

MARY CATHERINE  
b 5-26-1919  
d 7-16-1919

JAMES HENRY  
b 11-20-1920  
d 11-21-1923

MACE McCONNEL JACQUES  
b 3-28-1887 Ross County, OH  
d 4- -  
m 12-12-1908 Columbus, OH  
FLORENCE WINONA ALLEN  
b 9-17-1886 MEDICINE LODGE, KS  
d 7-25-1947 ANCON, PANAMA CANAL ZONE

PERCIVAL ERNEST GABEL  
b 6-30-1910  
d 9-11-1943  
m 10-9-1938  
ROBERTA MACE JACQUES  
b 11-2-1913

M 11-30-46 PANAMA CITY, R.O.P.  
JESS McGARVIN COFFEY  
b 11-22-1906 EUGENE, OR

BEAU ERNEST  
b 8-29-1939 LANGLEY FIELD, VA

JAMES ALLEN  
b 12-31-40 LANGLEY FIELD, VA

DIANE LETITIA  
b 6-4-1942 WASHINGTON, D.C.

m -1962 DENVER, CO m -1963 ,CA  
JUDY GEER CAROLE ANNE BENTLER

m 10-24-78 REDDING, CT m 6-29-64 VENICE, FL  
NANCY ELLEN HOLDER SARAH RUTH FARLEY  
b 1-31-43 INDIANAPOLIS, IN

m 6-27-64 TAMPA, FL m 7-24-1971  
GARY L. GARRISON JOHN C. MORTON  
b 3-12-41

DUSTIN ERNEST  
b 2-23-1969 DANBURY CT

KENNETH EDWARDS  
b 12-30-66 SAN ANTONIO, TX  
m 5-12-1986 RAPID CITY, SD  
MELISSA POTTER  
b 1-28-1968

GALEN TODD GARRISON  
b 11-25-64 ORLANDO FL

TODD LAWRENCE  
7-13-1971 THOUSAND OAKS, CA

CHRISTOPHER RION  
b 6-24-1969 CLARK AB, R.P.

KARLA MARIE  
b 4-2-1973 FAIRBORN, OH

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