

A History of the

Rachal Family



White Point, Texas



**Written by Ken Pinter
For Diane Rachal Pinter**

INTRODUCTION

This history documents the Rachal family of White Point in San Patricio County, Texas, starting with the early Rachal settlers and going forward about seven generations and ending with Diane Rachal Pinter, daughter of D.C. Rachal (1914-1991).

This report will be a work in progress and will follow the line mentioned above. Along the way, some of the side branches of the tree may be researched and added to the report, but primarily this report will follow the direct ancestral line noted above.

The data contained in this history is only as accurate as the sources it comes from. Spellings were checked and are believed to be correct.

Note that many tables presented below have blank spaces since this data is unavailable to me.

Credits

A complete list of credits is found at the end of this report.

THE 18TH CENTURY RACHALS

The first Rachal in this family to arrive in America was Pierre Rachal. He immigrated to the US from France. **Pierre Rachal dit St. Denis** was born in about 1698 in St. Denis on the Isle D'Oleron off of the west coast of La Rochelle, France. He came to the US as a soldier and later settled in Natchitoches (*NAK-uh-tush*), Louisiana. Pierre was the first member of this Rachal family to enter the Americas.

Note: Some of the Rachal names in the 18th century carry the “dit” designation. “dit” in French means literally “say” but means “called” in this context. For example, the first Rachal in America was Pierre Rachal dit St. Denis. There are a few possible interpretations of this “dit” name:

1. Pierre had an ancestor named Rachal but he chose to use the name St. Denis instead. So, he is Pierre Rachal called St. Denis.
2. It might refer to his birth place, ie., St. Denis on the Isle D'Oleron.
3. Sometimes a dit name is used to distinguish two families with the same name who lived close to each other ie, two different Pierre Rachal families, one of which lived in St. Denis.

Note on women's names: it was common in the time to precede girl's names with the name Marie. Hence, for example, you get Marie-Rose, etc. During certain times in French history, as many as 80% of girls born were named Marie-xxx.

A Note About the Origins of the Rachal Family

Some articles written in the past about the Rachals of White Point suggest that both Louis Ciriague and Anais were lineal descendents of the Acadians who sought asylum in Louisiana. Other articles dispute this saying that current descendent charts prove that Pierre Rachal came to Louisiana direct from the Isle D'Oleron in France. While the Rachal family history of 1698 to 1865 seems to dispute the Acadian theory, here is a brief Wikipedia article on The Acadians:

From Wikipedia:

The **Acadians** (French: *Acadiens*) are the descendants of the 17th-century French colonists who settled in Acadia (located in the Canadian Maritime provinces — Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island — and some in the American state of Maine). Although today most of the Acadians and Québécois are francophone Canadians, Acadia was founded in a geographically separate region from Quebec ("Canada" at this time) leading to their two distinct cultures. The settlers whose descendants became Acadians did not necessarily all come from the same region in France. Acadian family names have come from many areas in France from the Maillets of Paris to the Leblancs of Normandy. Acadian families originated from various regions in France; for example the popular Acadian surname 'Melanson' has its roots in Brittany, and those with the surname 'Bastarache', 'Basque', can find their origin in the Basque Country.

In the Great Expulsion of 1755, around 11,000 Acadians were deported from Acadia under the direction of British colonial officers and New England legislators and militia; many later settled in Louisiana, where they became known as Cajuns. Later on many Acadians returned to the Maritime Provinces of Canada, most specifically New Brunswick. During the British conquest of New France the French colony of Acadia was renamed Nova Scotia (meaning New Scotland).

There is substantial data that shows that the family originated on the Isle d'Orleon in France and migrated to Louisiana and then Texas via a military operation. That scenario will be assumed in the discussion below.

A Timeline of the Early Rachal Family in America

Note: this timeline was pieced together from the following sources:

- “Tales of Old Natchitoches” by Elizabeth Shown Mills and Gary B. Mills
- The Rachals of White Point, by Rachel B. Hebert
- Family tree report titled Descendents of Pierre Rachal dit St. Denis, by Jeremy Foster, Shreveport, LA (found online).
- Rachal Family Tree on ancestry.com, owner cecelia218
- Facebook Group “The Rachal Legacy”
- www.familysearch.com (Mormon Church website)

Note: there are various conflicts of dates and other data in this time frame. When conflicting data is present, I will present all data.

1698

Pierre Rachal dit St. Denis was born in St. Denis Parish, Isle d’Oleron, La Rochelle, France, on 27 January (or February 27 or January 6) 1698. He was the illegitimate son of Pierre Rachal, Sr (born 1677 in St. Denis Parish) and Elizabeth Jagnet (born 22 June 1671 (or 1680), also in St. Denis Parish. This detail is based on the following literally-translated text from the Department d’Archives d’ la Charente-Maritime:

“On January 27, 1698 was baptized Pierre Rachal and is born the same day illegitimate son of Pierre Rachal, "tambour" (one who worked with embroidery on a (circular) Tambour Frame) of the Company of Mr. Chavagnac, and of Elizabeth Jagnet, godfather Pierre Duteau, godmother Jeanne Ferrest who have declared not knowing how to sign their names. Done by me, Dufau, priest”

Note: Elizabeth’s parents are listed as Francois Jacquet (note spelling difference) and Catherine Turpin.

Pierre grew up there and later joined the French Troupes de Marine, a military organization similar to our modern-day Marine Corps. He was stationed at Rochefort in France. At the time, Rochefort, on the west coast of France, was a military harbor.

Pierre’s position in the military was that of drummer.

1697

Marie-Anne (or Marianne) Benoist was born in St. Laurens Parish, Paris, France, on 27 February 1697. Her father was Michel Benoist.

Before 1713

Pierre arrived in the Americas from Rochefort, France, as a soldier and was assigned to Ft. Toulouse, near present day Mobile, AL. At that time, Mobile was the capital of the Louisiana Colony. One record shows he arrived on the ship La Marichal D'Estries. Another says he arrived on either the Ludlow or the Paon.

About 1714

French soldiers from Ft. Toulouse moved westward towards modern day Northwestern Louisiana with orders to establish an outpost to facilitate trade with Mexico and to deter the Spanish from entering the Louisiana territory. They were led by Louis Juchereau de St. Denis. One member of this band of soldiers was possibly Pierre Rachal dit St. Denis because sources say he was involved with the early settlement of Natchitoches as a soldier.

As the soldiers traveled along the Red River, they came to an impasse in the river, near to a tribe of Indians known as the Natchitoches Indians. A trading out post (one or two buildings) was built and 10 soldiers remained onsite while the remainder of the army proceeded towards Mexico. Pierre might have been one of the soldiers who stayed. Or, he may have come later as addition French soldiers populated the outpost.

1717

The military outpost at Natchitoches was finally completed. It was called Fort Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches. More soldiers arrived in this time frame to man it. Perhaps Pierre Rachal was part of this new fortification of soldiers.

1719

Marie Anne Benoist immigrated to the Louisiana Colony and settled in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Natchitoches was a young and poor village at this time.

Note: Marie Anne, born in 1697, was the daughter of Michel Benoist. In about 1719, she was exiled to the French colony of Louisiana for life by the King of France. She had been tried in the King's court in France for "Blasphemy" and was classified as a convict (femmes de force – translation: women of strength) or "girl sent from Paris by order of the King". She and others (who were for the most part tried and convicted of prostitution), were sent to the Colony as part of an overall plan to provide wives for the male French colonists. She arrived in the French colonies (port of entry unknown) on the ship La Mutine and ended up in Natchitoches.

It is also thought that her father Michel was also exiled to the Colony for life for blasphemy and may have also been a French soldier stationed in Mobile. Her mother's name is unknown.

1719

Pierre met and married Marie Anne Benoist in Natchitoches, LA.

1722

The Census of Natchitoches lists Marie Anne Benoist Rachal as being the “wife of a soldier” but Pierre was not listed. He was apparently away on military maneuvers since he made a career of the military service.

1723

Natchitoches had not grown much since its founding in about 1717. According to the memoirs of a M. Derbanne in 1723:

“The settlers of this post are few in numbers. I have only seen twelve, but several soldiers are established here and grow corn for themselves. There are about twenty Negros in this post who are divided among the settlers...We have no church in this post, nor priest. It is a Spanish priest who comes to say Mass on Sundays.”

1727 – 1756

Pierre and Marie Anne began a family in Natchitoches that would number 3 (or 4) sons and 4 daughters, all born in Natchitoches.

Name	Born	Born in	Died	Died in
Pierre Rachal dit St Denis	1/27/1698	France	4/19/1756	Natchez, LA
Marie Anne Benoist	2/27/1697	Paris, France	11/7/1754	Natchitoches
Jean Claude ???	~1724	?	?	?
Louis Rachal dit Blondin	8/28/1727	Natchitoches, LA	~1789	Natchitoches, LA
Marie Elizabeth	5/12/1729	“	?	“
Pierre Barthelemy	~1733	“	3/4/1784	“
Jacques Santiago	12/4/1735	“	12/1777	“
Marie Louise	7/27/1737	“	~1790	“
Marie Claudia	~1738	“	?	“
Marie Jeanne	8/13/1739	“	?	“

Note: one reference lists Jean Claude, born 1724, and Louis dit Blondin, born 1722. Other references do not list Jean Claude.

During this time, it is thought that Pierre had at least two slaves, per slave records:

Francoise, an Indian, baptized 23 May 1734

Marie, an Indian, baptized 30 March 1738

1754

Marie Anne died at the age of about 57 on 7 November 1754 in Natchitoches.

1756

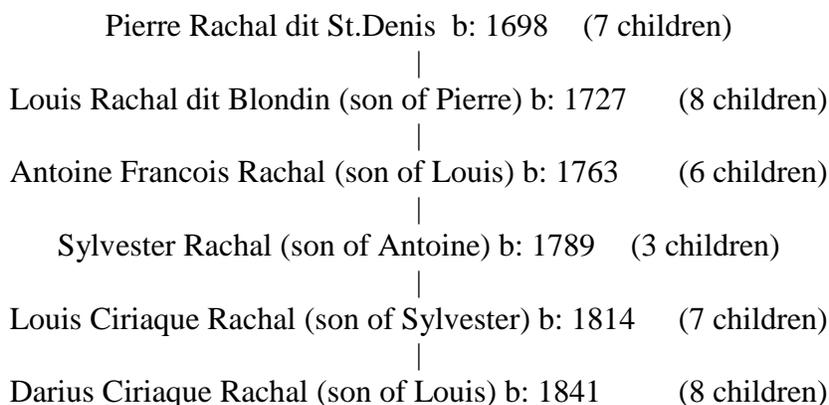
Pierre died in Natchez, MS while on military assignment, on 17 April 1756 at the age of about 58. It is thought he was killed by Indians while on military assignment. The French and Indian

War aka Seven Years War (1754-1763) was happening in 1756 but it is not known if he was involved in that war. Pierre's youngest child was about 17 years old when he died. However, she had married a year earlier. Pierre's wife had died two years earlier.

1756 – 1840

The descendents of Pierre and Marie Anne Rachal of Natchitoches flourished during this time. Most if not all of Pierre Rachal's children lived long enough to marry and have families of their own. It is not certain if all the Rachals in Louisiana are descended from Pierre Rachal. But if not, then certainly many can say they are descended from him. In terms of the Rachals of White Point, Texas, however, they can make that claim.

Descending from Pierre, five generations after him were born in Louisiana and raised families there. This chart shows the 6-generation direct line from Pierre to Darius Ciriaque Rachal:



Of course, Darius ended that string of Louisiana births when he immigrated with his parents Louis and Anais to Texas in about 1841 or 1842.

It is not known how the various Rachal generations made their living in Natchitoches and later Cloutierville (about 10 miles southeast of Natchitoches), but, early on, the area developed as a center for indigo and tobacco production and other plantation agriculture products, and later cotton and maize. Perhaps they were involved in some way with those industries or in activities of the river ports established there. Pierre was a "lifer" soldier so it is assumed his income was derived from the military.

Each of the families in this line will be discussed below, with the emphasis on the Louis Ciriaque Rachal and Darius Ciriaque Rachal families.

Louis Rachal dit Blondin continued the family line after Pierre Rachal. Here is his family:

Name	Born	Born in	Died	Died in
Louis Rachal dit Blondin	8/28/1727	Natchitoches, LA	~1789	Natchitoches, LA
Marie Louise LeRoy	4/20/1738	Natchitoches	9/4/1788	Natchitoches
Barthelemy	11/6/1755	“	?	“
Louis	6/12/1758	“	?	“
Julien	8/31/1760	“	1804	“
Antoine Francois Marie Rachal	7/3/1763	Natchitoches	1820	“
Marie Louise	6/9/1765	“	?	“
Marie	11/24/1768	“	?	“
Simeon	1772	“	?	“
Felicite	1781	“	?	“

The source of the name dit Blondin is unknown. There appears, however, to be two villages in France named Blondin, per Mapquest. The spelling Blondian has also been found.

Louis and Marie Louise were married on 23 July 1753 in Natchitoches. Marie Louise would have been about 15 years old.

Louis Rachal dit Blondin's son Julien Rachal married Marie Louise Brevet on 29 April 1783 and died in 1816. The importance of this marriage will become evident later in this report.

Marie Louise LeRoy was born in Natchitoches. However, her father was born in the commune of La Fleche in ancient province of Anjou in France. The birth place of her mother is unknown.

Antoine Francois Marie Rachal continued the family line. This table shows his family:

Name	Born	Born in	Died	Died in
Antoine Francois Marie Rachal	7/3/1763	Natchitoches	1820	Natchitoches
Marie Louise LeMoine	1770	Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	?	?
Sylvester	8/2/1789	Natchitoches	1841	Natchitoches
Antoine Narcisse	1791	“	?	“
Jean Baptiste	1796	“	?	“
Louis Solastie	12/1797	“	1835	“
Louise	1798	“	?	“
Pierre Emmanuel	1799	“	?	“

Antoine and Marie Louise were married on 6 or 13 January 1787.

Marie Louise LeMoine's parents were both born in the French colony in North America. However, her paternal grandparents were born in France. Her maternal grandmother was German and her maternal grandfather's origin is unknown.

Their son Sylvester continued the family line. The next table shows the Sylvester Rachal family:

Name	Born	Born in	Died	Died in
Sylvester Rachal	8/2/1789	Natchitoches	1841	Natchitoches
Marie Rose Michel Zarichi	1796	Natchitoches	11/19/1847	Cloutierville, LA
Louis Gacion Ciriaque	3/16/1816	“	4/14/1852	?
Hyppolite	1826	“	?	?
Appoline	1828	“	?	?

Sylvester and Marie Rose were married on 23 September 1813. Their son Louis Ciriaque Rachal continued the family line.

There is one data source that suggests Sylvester’s middle name might be Julien.

Marie Rose Michel Zarichi’s father was born in Nice which at the time may have been part of the Republic of Venice. Her mother was probably born in Natchitoches since her grandfather was born in Natchitoches while her grandmother was born in New Orleans.

In the 1820 census for Natchitoches, LA, there is one Sylvester Rachal listed as head of household. This household had 2 males under the age of 10 (Louis plus an unknown), two males between 26 and 45 (Sylvester plus an unknown) and one female between 26 and 45 (Marie Rose?).

In the 1830 household there were 8 people: one male under 5, 2 males between 10 and 15, (Louis) one male between 40 and 50 (Sylvester), one male between 70 and 80 (??), two females under 5, and one female between 30 and 40 (Marie Rose). The dates fit with the birth dates of Sylvester and his wife Marie Rose and Louis.

Of course, the data presented in the above two paragraphs is only speculation due to the age of the data and the lack of detail in the census data at that time.

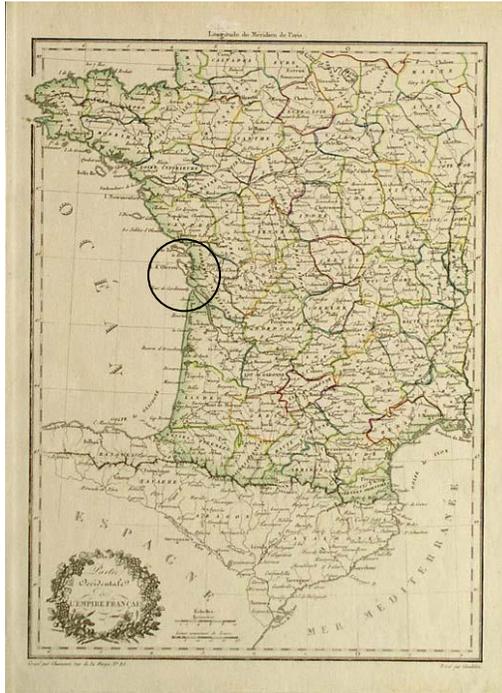
Rachal Family Homelands

The next few pages of this report will provide information about the Isle of D’Oleron in France and the town and parish of Natchitoches in Louisiana.

Following this, family information will be presented in the form of tables and text starting with the Louis Ciriaque Rachal family.

Isle of D'Oleron

The Isle D' Oleron is a small island off the west coast of France, about halfway between the border of Spain and town of Brest. Saint Denis d'Oleron is a village on the northernmost tip of the island.



From Wikipedia:

Island of Oleron is an island off the Atlantic coast of France (due west of Rochefort), on the southern side of the Pertuis d'Antioche strait. It is the second largest French island after Corsica (not counting French overseas possessions).

History

In the seventh and eighth century the island, along with Ré, formed the *Vacetae Insulae* or Vacetian Islands, according to the *Cosmographia*. Vaceti being another name for the Vascones, the reference is evidence to Basque (Gascon) settlement or control of the islands by that date.

It was at Oleron in about 1152 to 1160 that Eleanor of Aquitaine introduced the first "maritime" or "admiralty" laws in that part of the world: the Rolls of Oleron. In 1306, Edward I of England granted the island to his son, Edward II, as part of the duchy of Aquitaine.

On March 20, 1586, the Island is taken by Agrippa d'Aubigne.

Geography

The island has an area of about 175km². It is a fertile and well cultivated island on the Atlantic coast of France, that is on the Bay of Biscay. The climate is generally mild (maritime temperate) with sufficient but not excessive rainfall, but with probably from 3 to 15 days of intense heat in the summer months of July and August, mostly grouped.

Natchitoches, Louisiana

Natchitoches, Louisiana is located in the western half of the state about half way between Shreveport and Alexandria. The correct pronunciation is *NAK-uh-tush*.

From Wikipedia:

Natchitoches was established in 1714 by Louis Juchereau de St. Denis. It is the oldest permanent settlement within the borders of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Natchitoches was founded as a French outpost on the Red River for trade with Spanish-controlled Mexico, with the French presence beginning as early as 1699. The settlement's site was established near a village of Natchitoches Indians which gave the city its name.

After the Louisiana Purchase, Natchitoches experienced a population boom, and several plantations were built along the Red River. However, the course of the river shifted, bypassing Natchitoches and cutting off its lucrative connection with the Mississippi River. A 33-mile (53 km) lake was left in the river's previous location.

It became known as Cane River Lake. The lake runs through the city's downtown historic district and Plantation Country. It serves as the spring break training location for numerous crew teams, such as Kansas State University, University of Kansas, Wichita State University, Murray State University and Washington University.

Natchitoches was the site of the 1973 plane crash that claimed singer Jim Croce's life. Croce had just performed a concert on campus for Northwestern State University students at Prather Coliseum.

From http://www.caneriverheritage.org/main_file.php/fortstjean.php/

Fort St. Jean Baptiste is a testament to the resourcefulness of French explorers who first settled the backcountry of Louisiana in the early 1700s. About a quarter of a century after LaSalle first traveled down the Mississippi River and claimed all of the lands it drained for France, a band of Natchitoches Indians guided a group of French soldiers up the Red River in search of trade outlets. Led by a French Canadian named Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, the French were on a mission to Mexico to establish trading ties. Nearly one hundred and forty leagues up the Red River, they encountered an impenetrable logjam that prevented further navigation. The French hastily built two crude huts, which grew to become Fort St. Jean Baptiste and the town of Natchitoches, the oldest permanent settlement in the entire Louisiana Purchase territory.

Following the establishment of a fort in 1716, Fort St. Jean Baptiste evolved into an important frontier military outpost and a vital trade center between the French, Spanish, and Caddo Indians. St. Denis was named the commandant of the fort in 1722, and the colony thrived until his death in 1744.....

The fort continued to be garrisoned by French marines until 1762, when France's defeat in the French and Indian War forced her to cede Louisiana to Spain.....

A Note about the Census Data of 1790 through 1930

When the 10-year U.S. census was taken in this time frame of 1790 to 1840, the requirement of the census takers was that they record only the name of the head of the household and the number of people, male and female, whose ages fell within a given 5 or 10 year category (ie, under 5, 5 to 10, etc). In addition, Louisiana was not a state in the years 1790 and 1800 and so there is no census data available. This renders the census data in this time frame marginal at best. The only thing gained from this data is the number of Rachal households in each of the census years in Natchitoches:

1810 – 12 Rachal households in Natchitoches
1820 – 21 households
1830 – 33 households
1840 – 30 households

Beginning in 1850, census takers were instructed to record various combinations of data for each household including, for example, name, age, occupation, sex, race, place of birth and various other facts. Each census was slightly different in what was recorded. The 1900 census was the only census to record month and year of birth.

The US government is required to wait 72 years before releasing census data to the public. The 1950 census data will not be available until the year 2022.

Louis Ciriaque and Marie Anais Palmire Compère Rachal

Louis Ciriaque Rachal was born in Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, the son of Sylvester and Marie Rose Rachal. He met and courted Marie Anais Palmire Compère. They were married on 23 January 1837 in Natchitoches, LA. She was about 16 years old while he was about 20 years old. They began a family that would number seven children.

Note on the name Marie Anais Palmire Compère

Spelled Anais on her headstone
Palmere or Palmeire or Palmire – various spellings found
Compère or Compaire – various spellings found

Per Wikipedia, for the name Anais:

Pronounced: ah-nah-iss
Derived from Persian, meaning “Goddess of Love”
May also be of Mexican descent.
May mean Anne in French

Note on the name Ciriaque:

The name Ciriaque first appears in the Rachal family with the birth of Louis Ciriaque Rachal, son of Sylvester and Marie Rose and father of Darius Ciriaque Rachal. There seems to be two spellings: Ciriaque and Cyriaque.

Research shows that both are legitimate spellings.

The pronunciation seems to be: sear’ee’ahk.

The name is spelled Ciriaque in D.C Rachal’s death certificate in 1918. It is spelled the same way in the Texas Death Index 1903-2000, a typed document.

There are currently no other documents available to demonstrate the correct spelling for this family.

This report will assume the spelling **Ciriaque**.

One online public tree shows that Louis’ full name was Louis Gacion Ciriaque Rachal. In one document, he was referred to simply as Ciriaque Rachal. I have also found that Gacion is spelled Gassion

More on Marie Anais Palmire Compère

Marie Anais Palmire Compère was born in Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, on 14 March 1820 or 1821. Her parents (married 6 May 1813) are:

Father: Pierre Sebastien Compère
b: 1781 in Bordeaux, Gironde, Aquitaine, France
d: 30 August 1843 in Natchitoches Parish, LA

Mother: Marie Lolette Rachal
b: 6 January 1791 in Natchitoches, LA
b: September 1853 in Natchitoches, LA

Pierre Sebastien Compère's parents (married 1755):

Robert Compère
b: Bordeaux, Gironde, Aquitaine, France
d: same

Magdeleine Duguillen (or Du Quillen)
b: 1738
d: 1782

Marie Lolette Rachal's parents are:

Father: Julien Rachal
b: 31 August 1760 in Natchitoches, LA
m: 29 April 1783
d: 4 August 1810 in Natchitoches, LA

Mother: Marie Louise Brevel
b: 20 October 1770 in Isle Brevelle, Natchitoches Parish, LA
m: 29 April 1783
d: 28 April 1815 in same

Note that the Julien Rachal listed in the above list is the son of Louis Rachal dit Blondin and Marie Louise LeRoy mentioned earlier in this report. This means that Louis Ciriaque Rachal and Anais Palmire Compère, who were married to each other, were also second cousins to each other since they both have the same GreatGrandparents, namely Louis Rachal dit Blondin and Marie Louise LeRoy.

Note on Bordeaux, Gironde, Aquitaine, France, from Wikipedia:

Aquitaine is one of the 27 regions of France, in the south-western part of metropolitan France, along the Atlantic Ocean and the Pyrenees mountain range on

the border with Spain. It comprises the 5 departments of Dordogne, Lot et Garonne, Pyénées-Atlantiques, Landes and Gironde. In the Middle Ages Aquitaine was a kingdom and a duchy, whose boundaries fluctuated considerably.

Gironde in Gascon Gironda is a common name for the Gironde Estuary, where the mouths of the Garonne and Dordogne rivers merge, and for a department in the Aquitaine region situated in southwest France.

Bordeaux is a port city on the Garonne River in southwest France Bordeaux is currently the world's major wine industry capital.

Sometime in the 1840-1842 time frame, Louis Ciriaque Rachal and his family left Louisiana and migrated to Texas. Their plan was to travel to central Texas, but the frontier was dangerous. They made it to Bowie County (or Bosque...there is a conflict of information as to where they halted their quest to settle in central Texas). But, the Texas Rangers told them they could not guarantee their safety, so they returned to an area they had previously passed through, and settled there. This area is now Liberty, Texas, and is located between present day Kingwood and Beaumont. There is conflicting information as to when the move actually happened. It is reported that Louis' son D.C. Rachal was born in Louisiana in 1841 and his brother Alphonse in 1842, also in LA. Ernest was born in Texas in 1847 so the move had to have occurred between 1842 and 1847, not 1840. Alternatively, various writings say that Louis and Anais traveled from Louisiana with only their young daughter Ezilla (or Esilla), thus making the trip between about 1838 and 1840.

Nevertheless, the Louis and Anais Rachal family settled in Liberty County and continued to increase the size of their family.

For the remainder of this report, families will be shown as they existed for each of the US Censuses beginning in 1850 and extending through 1930.

1850

In 1850, Louis Ciriaque Rachal was living with his wife and family in Liberty County, TX. He was a "stock raiser". Here is their family in 1850 per the US Census:

1850			
Name	Age	Born	At
C. Rachal	34 or 39	1811 or 1816	LA
A.P. Rachal	30	~1820	LA
Esilla	12	~1838	LA
Francis	11	~1839	LA
Darius	9	~1841	LA
Alphonse	8	~1842	LA
Ernest	3	~1847	TX
Edward	1	~1849	TX

He valued his real estate at \$200.

Note: names listed in these tables are spelled exactly the way they were spelled on the Census documents. From time to time, I may include an alternate name or name spelling or clarification in which case that addition will be included in parenthesis. Birthdates were not provided on the census document except for the 1900 census. Therefore, birth years were determined by subtracting the age from the census year.

1860

Louis Rachal died in 1852. Apparently, Anais never remarried.

By 1860, the Louis C. Rachal estate had grown substantially. Here is his family in 1860 in Liberty County, TX (Post office was Liberty).

1860			
Name	Age	Born	At
Anais Rachal	39	~1821	LA
E.C. (Esilla Claire)	20	~1840	LA
Francois	19	~1841	LA
Darius	18	~1842	LA
E.R (Edward)	10	~1850	TX
Albert	8	~1852	TX

Anais valued the real estate at \$2000 and her personal property at \$5000.

1870

By 1870, Anais was living in the household of her daughter Ezilla (or Esilla) who had married Lee Bitterman. They lived in Liberty Co, TX. Here is that family in 1870:

1870				Notes
Name	Age	Born	At	
Lee A.Bitterman	37	~1833	OH	
Azela (Ezilla) Rachal	30	~1840	LA	Daughter of Anais Rachal
Emma	4	~1864	?	
Daniel	3 mo	~1870	?	
Anais Rachal	50	~1820	?	Mother of Ezilla

It is thought, based on the available data, that Anais still owned the farm that the Bitterman family was occupying. This is based on the fact that Lee valued his real estate at \$0 while Anais valued her real estate at \$400.

1880

By 1880, the Bitterman family was still living in Liberty County, TX, and Anais still lived with them. Here is the family as found in the 1880 US Census:

1880				
Name	Age	Born	At	Notes
Lee A. Bitterman	42	~1838	OH	
Ezelia Rachal	41	~1839	LA	Daughter of Anais Rachal
Emma	14	~1866	?	
Frederick	10	~1870	?	
Mary A	8	~1872	?	
Lee A	4	~1876	?	
Ulysess	3mo	~1880	?	
Anais Rachal	60	~1820	?	

Anais Rachal died on 20 July 1886 at the age of 65 years, probably at or near to Rosita. She is buried in Rosita cemetery in White Point. It is interesting that her husband Louis Ciriagqe is buried in Liberty, TX.

The following table is a summary of the complete family of Louis Ciriague Rachal.

Name	Born	At	Married	On	Died	At
Louis Ciriague Rachal	3/16/1816	Natchitoches		1/23/1837	4/14/1852	Liberty
Marie Anais Palmire Compere	5/14/1820	Louisiana			7/20/1886	Rosita
Ezilla Claire	5/10/1838	Cloutierville, Louisiana	Levi Alonzo Bitterman	3/6/1862	2/17/1932	Corpus Christi
Francois (Frank)	~1839/40	Louisiana	Anna Blanchette	?	~1870	?
Darius Ciriague	1/23/1841	Cloutierville, Louisiana	Julia Aurelia Bryan	12/29/1864	8/27/1918	Rosita
Alfonse	1842	Louisiana	NA	—	1855, age 13	Liberty
Ernest	1847	Liberty, TX	NA	—	1855, age 8	Liberty
Edward Rene ("Nute")	1/24/1849	Liberty, TX	Louise "Lula" Perrenot	~1877	11/15/1829	Falfurrias
Albert Pierre (A.P.)	7/22/1851	Liberty, TX	Mary Dizena Peters	?	7/8/1908 Chicago	Chicago

The Descendents of Louis Ciriaque Rachal

The main focus of this report from this point forward will be on the Darius Ciriaque Rachal branch. However, before that branch is discussed, we will look briefly at the other children of Louis Ciriaque Rachal: Ezilla, Frank, Alphonse, Ernest, “Nute”, and A.P.

Ezilla Claire Rachal

Ezilla Claire Rachal was the first child born to Louis and Anais. It is thought that the first four children were born in Cloutierville in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Her parents migrated to Texas from LA sometime between 1842 and 1849 based on birth date and location data for her two brothers Alphonse and Ernest. Another report states that only Ezilla was born in Louisiana and that all the other children of Louis and Anais were born in Liberty, TX, after they migrated there in about 1840. The former explanation seems more correct.

Ezilla grew up in Liberty Texas and married Levi A. Bitterman, a native of Ohio, on 6 March 1862 in Liberty. Here is the complete family as we saw earlier:

Name	Born	At	Notes
Lee Alonzo Bitterman	7/4/1834	OH	
Ezilla Claire Rachal	5/10/1838	LA	Daughter of Anais Rachal
Emma Lenora			
Frederick			
Mary A			
Lee A			
Ulysess			
Anais Rachal			Mother of Ezilla

Ezilla Rachal and Levi Bitterman were married on 6 March 1862. They raised a family of six children (nine were born but 3 did not survive infancy). In 1880, they followed D.C, A.P. and Nute to South Texas by moving to Nueces County. They brought Ezilla’s mother Anais Rachal, a widow, with them.

Francois “Frank” S. Rachal

Frank Rachal was born in Liberty, TX, in about 1840. On one or more occasions, he assisted his brothers D.C. and A.P. in running cattle north to Kansas or other markets.

Frank enlisted in the army in 1862 at the age of 22 and fought in the Civil war with his brother D.C. He served in Company H of the Texas 25th Cavalry regiment, (Gilespie’s Regiment), 3rd Lancers, Carters Brigade. He was discharged as a First Sergeant, but apparently in poor health.

He married Anais Blanchette in Jefferson County, TX, on 21 August 1867. A daughter was born to them in about 1868. Sometime before 1870, Frank died, reportedly a delayed casualty of the War. His wife and child were found living in Jefferson Co (Post office Beaumont), TX, with her

(assumed) parents, Alexis and Camely Blanchet and their 6 children. Anais was 21 and her daughter Frances was 2 years old. This following table lists the Frank S. Rachal family:

Name	Born	At	Died	At
Francois "Frank" S. Rachal	~1840	Liberty, TX??	~1870	
Anais (Anna) Blanchette	~1849	Jefferson Co, TX	?	
Frances	~1868			

Anais was listed as Anna in the 1870 census.

Alphonse Rachal

Alphonse was born in Cloutierville in about 1842 but died in 1855 at the age of 13 years in Liberty of unknown causes.

Ernest Rachal

Ernest was born in Liberty, TX, in about 1847 and died there at the age of 8 years in 1855 of unknown causes.

Both Alphonse and Ernest died in the same year, 1855. It is not known if something happened (such as an accident or an epidemic) that might have caused their simultaneous deaths.

Edward Rene "Nute" Rachal

Name	Born	At	Married	Died	At
Edward Rene "Nute" Rachal, Sr.	1/24/1849	Liberty, TX	~1877	11/15/1929	Falfurrias
Louise Margaret "Lula" Perrenot	3/29/1857	Florida		2/3/1940	Falfurrias
Edward Rene, Jr (Eddie)	7/12/1878	Rockport, TX	Louise Allen	9/25/1964	Falfurrias
Marie (Mamie) Anais	6/18/1880		Hart Mussey	9/9/1969	
Charles Emmet	11/11/1882		Hortense Mussey	5/29/1962	
Frank Clifton	8/27/1885		Estella Merrill	12/7/1854	



E. R. (Nute) RACHAL

Notes:

- Lula was born of French parents. They migrated from the Alsace-Lorraine region of France to Florida in the US. Lula found her way later to the old Texas seaport of Indianola and then to Rockport.
- Moved to Falfurrias in 1904.
- Owned a ranch in Cotulla, TX.
- Nute was the first person to plant a citrus grove of various oranges in Falfurrias

Albert Pierre “A.P.” Rachal

Name	Born	At	Married	Died	At
Albert Pierre “A.P.” Rachal	7/22/1851	Liberty		7/8/1908	Chicago
Mary Dizinia Peters	12/28/1858			2/27/1941	CA
Margaret Maggie	8/29/1876			5/15/1956	
Albert P.	~1878			~1890	
Myrtle O.	2/24/1881			11/24/1955	CA
Claudie A.	9/1888				
Guy Scott	2/14/1889			4/9/1966	



A. P. RACHAL

Notes:

- Owned a ranch in the Falls City/Floresville, TX area
- Mary’s middle name might be spelled Dizinia.

Darius Ciriaque and Julia Bryan Rachal

The third child of Louis and Anais Rachal was Darius Ciriaque, or D.C. Rachal. When D.C. was about 16 years old (in 1857) and living in Liberty County, he was hired by Frank and Edward White to drive cattle from Liberty to the White’s new ranch in San Patricio County on Nueces Bay. After the drive, D.C. returned to his home in Liberty, but he had been so taken by the land that he saw on the bay that he would later come back to own it. At the time, this land was

covered with knee-high grass and low mesquite brush growing in clumps and was the home of unbranded and un-owned horses and cattle running wild waiting to be claimed.

In 1861 with the Civil War in full swing, D.C. was called to the civil war cause. He was apparently a student at St. Mary's College in Galveston at the time, along with his brother Frank. In August 1861, D.C. enlisted in the Confederate Army. He enlisted in Company F of the Fifth regiment of Texas Volunteers (later to be known as "Hood's Texas Brigade"). Frank also enlisted.

Details of D.C.'s involvement in the civil war will be documented later in this report.

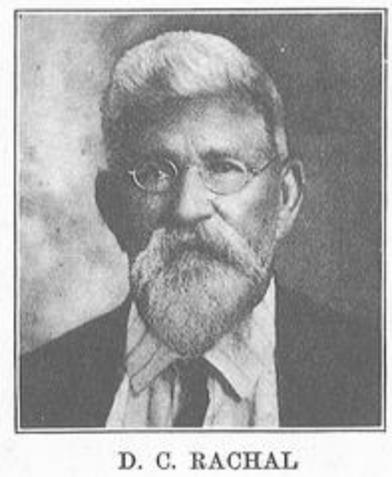
D.C. participated in numerous battles for about four years and was then honorably discharged from military service on 30 June 1865 as a Captain. He then returned to Liberty Texas. There he married Julia Bryan.

There is a conflict of dates regarding his marriage date versus his discharge. One source gives his marriage date as only 1865. This would be consistent with his June 1865 discharge.

Another source, Julia's obituary in 1911, gives her wedding date as 29 December 1864. If D.C. was discharged in June 1865, then they would have to have been married while he was on a furlough. He was on a furlough in September 1864.

Note: a letter exists written by D.C requesting reassignment after a furlough. Here are some key points about the letter:

- Written in Liberty, TX, in September 1864
- States that DC was on furlough in March 1864.
- He returned to duty, saw action, was captured by the enemy, then released on an exchange in Alexandria, LA, and was furloughed again.
- Requested assignment to any unit west of the Mississippi, in particular General Major's brigade in Louisiana.
- No response or follow up is available regarding this letter.



While the details of this time are sketchy, it is known that their first child, Florence Emma, was born on 8 September 1866.

One account of D.C.'s life says that some time after Florence was born, D.C. left his wife and child in Liberty and went to San Patricio County to be a "beef driver" for a wage of \$2.50 per day. He did this because there was no employment to be found in Liberty. Later, after building up some wealth and acquiring some livestock of his own, D.C. purchased some property from the Whites who then built a small home for D.C. in White Point. D.C. then brought his family there to live.

(Note: another account says that, for two years, D.C. and Julia lived in Calhoun County but soon D.C. and family moved to San Patricio County in South Texas, to the land he had seen when he was 16 years old.)

Nevertheless, D.C. and family finally settled into their new home in White Point, a house that one of the White brothers had built for him (or that he built...there are two conflicting stories about this event), and never left. This was the beginning of The Rachals of White Point.

The time period of 1865 to 1867 was an eventful time for D.C. Rachal. As mentioned above, he was discharged from the Confederate army and married Julia Bryan. Julia was the daughter of Christopher Bryan and Elizabeth Whitlock Bryan. In 1866, he purchased land from Edward or Frank White at White Point in San Patricio County, moved his small family there, and built a one story house. The Whites were the first family to settle on what it now called White Point in 1856. Perhaps White Point was named after this family or perhaps the name was derived from the white cliffs of the area that overlooked Nueces Bay. Both theories are presented by historians.

In the same year that D.C. finished his new home, yellow fever (the scourge of 1867), struck the area. Fortunately he and his family survived. However, about 14 local residents died from the disease. Julia contracted the fever but survived. White Point Cemetery, about one-half mile from D.C.'s home, was created as a result of this epidemic and D.C. manufactured coffins for many of the first people to be buried there. It is reported he used wood from his own home to construct these coffins. Local lore has it that a yellow cloud descended on the area and caused the epidemic.

From 1870 until his death in 1918, D.C. Rachal raised his family and prospered in San Patricio County. He acquired much land around Nueces Bay from White Point to Odem. He became a large supplier of beef to the nation. He was a true "cattle baron" of the time. His family would grow to a total of eight children during this time.

1870

In 1870, when the census was taken, D.C. and family were living in San Patricio County, TX, Subdivision #4, Post Office Refugio, TX (in other words, Rosita at White Point). Here is the D.C. Rachal family in 1870:

1870				
Name	Age	Born	At	Notes
D.C. Rachal	27	~1843	LA	
Julia	23	~1847	TX	
Florence	3	~1867	TX	
Frank	2	~1868	TX	
Elizabeth Bryan	50	~1820	LA	Mother of Julia
Nancy Bryan	20	~1850	LA	Sister of Julia
Jane Bryan	14	~1856	LA	Sister of Julia

D.C. valued his real estate at \$2000 and his personal property at \$1000. His occupation was stock raiser. Julia's mother and two sisters also lived with them.

DC and family lived near to Sidney Borden according to the census. Sidney was aged 24 and a farmer and was single.

John Welder also lived nearby.

Also, E. Rachal age 20, and Albert Rachel, age 18, (D.C.'s brothers), both carpenters, were living in the household of L.A. Spangler and family nearby.

Note: Julia Rachal's obit gives her middle name as Roena.

Note: there is a report that suggests that there was another daughter named May and another named Julia but this is unsubstantiated by the census data. The 1910 census suggests that Julia had 8 children of which 6 survived. This is reflected in the above table.

Note: pronunciations of the name Darius include:

Di-reese and Druce.

Rachel Dawson reported that the pronunciation was

Di-reese.

Spanish pronunciation was Da-re²-sus.

Cattle drives came into existence in the late 1860/early 1870's and D.C. participated in numerous cattle drives to Kansas. In one such drive in 1871, D.C. was the trail boss, his brother Nute was the second in command, and his other brother Albert (A.P.) was a trail hand. This drive lasted from March until November and ran from the Nueces River to Kansas. Along the way, they contended with driving rain, stampedes, and a cattle mix up. When the 1200 head arrived in Kansas, the market had dried up and so the cattle were shipped to the Chicago slaughter houses.

The Rachals were known as cattle drivers who wasted no time in delivering cattle to market. They frequently ran the herd all the way to market. The phrase "Rachal 'em out" was frequently used to describe the Rachal way of driving cattle to market.

Towards the end of the 1870s and into the 1880s, great pasture companies evolved in southeast Texas. One in particular, the Coleman and Fulton Pasture Company, occupied nearly 215,000 acres. Over time, however, the amount of this land devoted to cattle raising dwindled and the owners sold off more and more land to be converted to farm land.

D.C. followed suit and converted much of his remaining White Point land to farm land. At one time, D.C. had a thousand acres of cotton and 400 acres of corn and was prosperous doing this. (However, he could not deny to himself that he was a cattle rancher, so he leased a ranch west of Hebronville and raised cattle during the latter part of his life.)

1880

When the 1880 census was taken, this is what was recorded for DC and his family:

1880				
Name	Age	Born	At	Notes
Darius Rachal	39	~1841	LA	
Julia	37	~1843	TX	
Florence	13	~1867	TX	
Frank	12	~1868		
Christopher	7	~1873		
Kate	3	~1877		
Elizabeth Bryan	60	~1820	LA	Mother of Julia
Nancy Bryan	27	~1853		Sister of Julia
Jane Bryan	23	~1857		Sister of Julia

In 1883, D.C. added an upper story to his home to accommodate his growing family. This house was to endure for nearly 93 years until it was razed in 1956 due to old age. A later section of this paper will describe this house in more detail.

Periodic droughts in South Texas hurt D.C.'s interests on more than one occasion. D.C. survived the drought of 1876. However, the drought of 1878-9 was more difficult and he resorted to killing his weak cattle to provide hides for sale. Hides brought more in the market than the cattle itself at that time. D.C., however, was able to survive and not lose his land. As a result, he was able to enter the 1880's and prosper. The rains came and D.C. was again able to expand his operation. He in fact was able to purchase the 31,000 acre Rabb Ranch with partner Henry Scott in 1884. The ranch ranged from Banquete to the left bank of the Petronila Creek.

In 1885, another two-year drought began, and this time D.C. was unable to survive the severe business downturn. In April, 1886, D.C. and partner Henry Scott sold the Rabb Ranch to Jerry and Robert Driscoll for \$93,000. Clara Driscoll would soon own this land. The drought ended soon after this transaction occurred. Later, oil and gas were discovered on this property, spelling a huge financial loss for D.C.

Later in his life, D.C. moved away from cattle ranching and moved more into farming, becoming a prosperous farmer near the Texas towns of Odem and Sinton.

D.C. was an elected county commissioner from 1880 until 1896 and thus exerted an influence on the development of the county.

1890

The 1890 census is not available. It was destroyed by a fire in 1921.

In 1893, D.C, along with seven friends including S.G Borden, purchased 1000 acres from the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company and organized the town of Sinton. They moved the county seat to Sinton and worked to get a second train service to the town.

He also became involved in various businesses including a cotton gin, a ferry, a schooner and a vineyard in a partnership with S.G. Borden. The schooner was a flat-bottomed copper schooner named "The Nueces Valley" and was used to carry cotton and wool along the Nueces River. The cotton gin, built near Hart's Lake, was the first gin in the area in the 1880s.

Finally, Borden had begun growing grapes at Sharpsburg, a town he founded, and so he and D.C. opened a vineyard and offered two wine products: Sharpsburg's Best (white) and Rachal's Choice (red).

1900

In 1900, DCs family was recorded as follows in San Patricio County, Precinct 7, again aka Rosita:

1900	Notes			
Name	Age	Born	At	Notes
Darius Rachal	59	1/1841	LA	
Julia	54	3/1845	TX	
Kate	23	2/1877	TX	
Ernest	18	7/1881	TX	
Richard	14	9/1885	TX	

Census data showed that D.C. and Julia had been married for 35 years and that she had 8 children of which 6 survived. The data also said he was a stock raiser.

1910

By 1910, all of the children were out on their own. In addition, the Bryans were also gone. It was just DC and Julia to occupy the big house:

1910				
Name	Age	Born	At	Notes
Darius Rachal	68	~1842	LA	
Julia	64	~1845	TX	

1920

By 1920, Julia and D.C. were gone. Julia died in 1911. D.C. died in 1918. Perhaps Christopher Rachal and his family occupied the big house in 1920.

In summary, the following table is the complete family of D.C. and Julia Rachal:

Name	Born	At	Married	On	Died	At
Darius Ciriaque Rachal	1/23/1841	Cloutierville, Louisiana		12/29/1864	8/27/1918	Rosita
Julia Aurelia Bryan	11/1/1845	Liberty Co, Texas			4/6/1911	Rosita
Florence Emma	9/8/1866	Liberty	P.A. Hunter	9/18/1884	1/10/1947	Corpus Christi (CC)
Frank Sylvester	11/29/1868	Rosita	Anna C. Webster	?	3/25/1923	Falfurrias
Christopher (Chrys) Pryor (twin of Eddie)	2/20/1873	Rosita	Elizabeth M. Odem	11/29/1889	8/31/1942	Rosita
Eddie	3/9/1873	Rosita	NA	NA	1873, age 17 days	Rosita
Katherine L. (Kate)	2/11/1877	Rosita	Dominic Nicolas Dunn	?	11/29/1946	CC
Ida Kaleta	11/28/1877	Rosita	NA	NA	1877, age 28 days	Rosita
Ernest Albert	7/20/1881	Rosita	Mary E. (Maimie) Gaffney	?	7/31/1938	Taft
William Berwick (Dick)	9/8/1885	Rosita	Lula Priscilla Shaw	1905	9/26/1929	?

Ancestors of Julia Bryan - The Bryan Family and Whitlock Family

This section of this report will briefly outline the Bryan and Whitlock families from which Julia A. Bryan Rachal is descended. Julia A. Bryan is the second of four children born to Christopher Pryor Bryan and Elizabeth Whitlock.

The Bryan Family

First, I will show the Bryan family. This Bryan family can be traced at least back to 18th century Ireland.

Christopher Bryan married Katherine Kimberland in Unknown location sometime before 1777. While they both came from the British Isles, they probably married in the US, possibly Virginia. The following tables show the Christopher Bryan family:

Name	Born	At	Died	At
Christopher Kindallis O Bryan	1745	Dublin, Ireland	1811	Lexington, KY
Katherine Kimberland	11/18/1747	Wales, UK	1799	Lexington, KY
Luke O Bryan	7/25/1777	VA	2/28/1841	Liberty, TX
others				

Christopher and Katherine had at least one son, Luke. Luke O Bryan married Marguerite Rebecca Berwick on 10/1/1802 and had a son Christopher Pryor Bryan as shown in the table below:

Name	Born	At	Died	At
Luke O Bryan	7/25/1777	VA	2/28/1841	Liberty, TX
Marguerite Rebecca Berwick	5/11/1786	Opelousas, LA	2/9/1823	Berwick, St. Martins Parish, LA
Christopher Pryor	12/10/1814	Berwick, St. Martins Parish, LA	12/12/1860	Beaumont, Jefferson Co, TX
others				

As we saw earlier, Christopher P Bryan married Elizabeth Whitlock and had a daughter Julia A. Bryan.

Note: it was not clear from the source data is this family began as O'Bryan or O'Brien or if the O was actually a middle name.

Margurite Rebecca Berwick was the daughter of Thomas Berwick and Eleanor Wallace as follows:

Name	Born	At	Died	At
Thomas Berwick	1740	Philadelphia, PA	3/28/1789	Berwick, St. Martins parish, LA
Eleanor Wallace	8/14/1748	Dublin, Ireland	10/15/1815	same
Marguerite Rebecca Berwick				
others				

They were married on 14 August 1768 in Charlestown, SC.

The Whitlock Family

The earliest Whitlock that can be traced to the Rachal family is William Whitlock. William was born in North Carolina in 1785. He married Mary White probably in Louisiana. They had at least a daughter Elizabeth.

The following table shows the Whitlock family:

Name	Born	At	Died	At
William Whitlock	1785	NC	3/1885	Franklin Co, AL
Mary White	8/14/1793	St. Martins Parish, LA	1862	Liberty Co, TX
Elizabeth	3/4/1819	LA	4/3/1892	San Patricio Co, TX
other				

Elizabeth may have been Elizabeth Amanda or Amanda Elizabeth.

I do not have data for this family prior to this generation.

The Julia Bryan Family

As I mentioned, Christopher Bryan married Elizabeth Whitlock on Unknown date. They had at least four children. This table shows the Bryan family in 1850 in Liberty County, TX:

1850				
Name	Age	Born	At	Notes
Christopher Bryan	35	~1815	LA	
Elizabeth Whitlock	30	3/4/1819	LA	
Octavia B.	14	7/29/1836	TX	
Julia A.	5	~1845	TX	Wife of D.C.

Christopher was a carpenter and valued his real estate at \$6000.

In 1860, the family looked like this, still in Liberty County, TX (Post office was Liberty):

1860				
Name	Age	Born	At	Notes
Christopher Bryan	45	~1815	LA	
Elizabeth	43	~1820	LA	
Julia A.	14	~1845	Liberty, TX	Wife of D.C.
N.V. (Nancy)	10	~1850	Liberty, TX	
Jane A.	5	~1855	Liberty, TX	

Christopher was the post master in Liberty in 1860. He valued his real estate at \$12000 and personal property at \$1000.

Christopher Bryan died on 12 December 1860 in Beaumont Texas. Julia was about 15 years old at the time.

In 1864 or 1865, Julia married Darius Ciriaque Rachal.

By 1870, Julia's father Christopher had died. His wife Elizabeth and two daughters, Nancy and Jane, were living with Julia and her husband Darius C. Rachal in San Patricio County, TX, as discussed above, presumably at White Point.

D.C. and Julia Rachal Personal Facts

D.C. Rachal was, by all accounts, a very interesting man in many respects. For example:

- He was an enterprising cattleman and farmer and entrepreneur. Outside of raising cattle and cotton, D.C. Rachal's other interests were:
 - D.C. along with Sidney Borden and two others formed a forwarding company in Portland, TX, around 1892 and built a large wharf.
 - He entered into a wine business with Sidney Borden.
 - He was an organizer of the new town of Sinton in about 1893 along with George W. Fulton, Jr., John J. Welder, David Odem, Sidney G. Borden, William J. Scofield, L. N. Scofield, S. W. McCall, and S. D. Scudder
 - He entered into a ferry business with Sidney Borden.
- He was a devoted family man. Many of his children returned to White Point to live at one time or another. In addition, D.C. liked to pick up his grandchildren in his buggy and take them out for the day.
- He had a hot temper that could flare up at any moment but could die out at just as quickly at the urging of his wife Julia. Julia seems to be the "calm at the center of the storm". Nevertheless, his family and friends, being fully aware that this temper in no way interfered with this love and devotion for them, simply sat by in amazement until the flare-ups diminished.
- He made his home into a haven for his children, his grandchildren and his various relatives who would come to visit often, including many who "came here to die". He would take his grandkids out for ride in his one-seat buggy.
- He was reportedly a big man and pigeon-toed and was always singing a tune or whistling as he went about his work.
- He braved Indian and Mexican attacks early on to establish a way of life in South Texas.

- He overcame many obstacles and was undaunted by setbacks. He had a true “can-do” spirit.
- He and Julia enjoyed a drink he called “punch” (raw warm milk from the stables and whiskey) in the afternoon.
- Julia was a quiet woman who preferred to be out of the limelight. Only one picture of her has been found so far. Later in her life, she became almost totally deaf. She had auburn unruly hair which she kept cut unusually short, and she had a beautiful and extensive wardrobe reportedly purchased in New Orleans.
- Julia was apparently an expert at knitting, crochet, and decoration.

The House

The D.C. Rachal home in White Point, Texas, has been the focal point for much discussion and many stories over the years. As discussed earlier, the house was first built as a one-story home in 1866. Later, about 1883, the house was enlarged by building a second story. A large part of the house was built of cypress tree wood shipped from Louisiana. Much of the furniture was also hand built on site.



The home faced east and had galleries (colonial style porches) on both levels. These galleries provided views of Nueces Bay and Corpus Christi Bay as well as the town of Corpus Christi. Quite a few white columns adorned the house all around. It also had chimneys at both ends, reminiscent of the original building that once stood in White Point and which was referred to as El Paraje de las Chemeneas (The Place of the Chimneys).

The first floor of the home in its completed state housed the parlor, front bedroom in the main part, and two more bedrooms in the west-facing ell (an ell is an extension to a building that is at right angles to that building). In addition, the kitchen and dining room were contained in another ell facing to the north.

On the second floor, there were two bedrooms on the main section of the house, and a large room called “the big room” in the west ell. This large room served as a dorm for the 4 boys but could easily be transformed into a dancing venue when needed, and this was done, apparently, often. The history of this house is full of stories about two- and three-day dances held in this room. Altogether, the home had approximately 12-15 rooms.

Interestingly, D.C. and Julia were not dancers, but they enjoyed simply watching the others dance to the music of Billie Favella or, in some cases, a few talented ranch hands.

The house was indeed not only a residence for the Rachal family but also a social center for San Patricio County. Guests were always welcomed and a few guests stayed quite a long time.

As time passed, the occupancy of the old house shifted to one of D.C.'s sons, Chrys. Chrys Rachal and his wife raised a family of 11 children. They upheld many of the family traditions during their time including the dances in "the big room".

Sometime after Chrys died in 1942, the family moved out of the old house and it stood vacant until 1956 when it was razed. Cyprus wood from the home was used to build other smaller dwellings on the property.

The picture at the right is the old smokehouse on the property.



It should be noted that White Point was not just a large home. It was nearly a small village. In addition to the home, the Mexican and Black ranch hands and their families lived in separate buildings on the ranch, and it also had a post office located at the ranch headquarters. The official address was "Rosita" or "La Rosita Ranch" since the postal service refused D.C.'s request to call it Rachal or White Point. D.C. was Rosita's first postmaster.

THE Dance

SALUTE YOUR PARTNER
THEY DANCED ALL NIGHT AND DANCED ALL DAY AND
THEN DANCED SOME MORE
(From the Corpus Christi Caller of June 2, 1893)

Col. D. C. Rachal, San Patricio's big farmer, has a thousand acres planted in cotton this season, besides several hundred acres in corn. The prospects for a fine crop could not possibly be finer and of course the Colonel is feeling very good in consequence. In fact he felt so good last week that he told his neighbors his house was at their command if they wished to have a dance and that he had plenty for them to eat and drink as long as the dance lasted. Such opportunities are not offered the fun loving people of old San Patricio every day in the year, so on last Friday evening the neighbors from far and near began to arrive at the Rachal Mansion. Falvella's Italian band went over from Corpus Christi and after a big supper had been partaken of, the band struck up a lively air and commenced in earnest. Old people and young joined in the dance and as the hour advanced, "the mirth and fun grew fast and furious."

"One O'Clock, 2 O'Clock, 3 O'Clock arrived, and yet there was no cessation of the fun, and at last when day arrived and the great round sun came rolling up in the far away east, it found them dancing still and "balancing" all around. At 8 O'Clock a short recess was taken for breakfast, after which the music was renewed, the prompter sang out "S'lute Your Partner", and at it they went again. They danced till dinner time, when a halt was called and in an hour spent in consuming a royal old fashioned country dinner. It was then thought that the dance was at an end, but not so with the dancers. They came there to dance and they proposed to dance till they got enough if it took all summer. The musicians were told to start up but they had played til they could play no more. Eighteen hours on a stretch was all that they could stand and it was impossible for them to longer hold their eyes open. Col. Rachal was equal to the emergency, however, and another band had been sent for. It arrived in due time and the dancing was resumed with renewed furry.

There seemed to be no let up to the dancers and it was dancing they were after. At last night again arrived but still the dance went on. Another such dance had never before been held in old San Patricio County, and never will be again. Through all of Saturday night the dance went on and when Sunday morning came in bright and fair, they were still "balancin' all" and "salutin' their partners". Nor did the dance come to a final conclusion until 12 O'Clock Sunday and even then some of them were loath to give in. It was the out-dancingest dance ever held in Southwest Texas and those who participated in it will remember it to their dying day.

(Note: spellings are as found in original document)

D.C. in the Civil War

In August 1861, at the age of 20, D.C. enlisted in the Confederate Army and went to serve in the fifth regiment of Hood's Texas Brigade, known formally as the Fifth Texas Volunteer Regiment, and later informally as the "bloody fifth." He was a part of Company F also known as "Company Invincible".

**"There never were such men in an army before. They will go anywhere and do anything if properly led."
(General Robert E. Lee in a letter to General John Bell Hood, May 21, 1863)**

In August he was detailed to the Ambulance Corps and promoted to Corporal in February 1863. During his time in the service, he participated in a number of skirmishes:

Eltham Landing (May 7, 1862)
Seven Pines (May 31-June 1, 1862)
Seven Days Battles (June 25-July 1, 1862)
Gaines Mill (June 27, 1862), 1862)
2nd Bull Run (August 28-30, 1862)
Malvern Hill (July 1, 1862)
Freeman's Ford (August 21)
South Mountain (September 14, 1862)
Antietam (September 17, 1862)
Fredericksburg (December 13, 1862)
Washington Siege (March-April 1863)
Washington April 4, 1863)
Suffolk Campaign (April 1863)
Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863)
Chickamauga (September 19-20, 1863)
Chattanooga Siege (September-November 1863)
Wauhatchie (October 28-29, 1863)
Knoxville Siege (November-December 1863)

According to Hood's Texas Brigade: A Compendium:

- (1) Rachal, Darius C. – Detailed to Ambulance Corps, Aug., 1862: Appt: Cpl., Feb., 1863: Granted furlough “of indulgence” to Tex., Feb., 1864: AWOL, did not return to Co.: Jnd another unit in Tex.

Apparently, D.C. received a furlough “of indulgence” in February 1864. A furlough of indulgence seems to be a simple leave not based on injury, personal problems at home, etc. This may be when he and Julia were married in Liberty, County. He apparently did not return to Company F but rather joined another (unknown) unit in Texas for the duration of the war, which ended in 1865. The above Compendium for Company F listed him as AWOL.

At the end of the war, D.C. was discharged and returned to Liberty County. He was one of about 557 soldiers who survived out of the original 3500 or more soldiers that originally comprised Hood's Texas Brigade. His discharge document is included in the accompanying images section and shows that he was honorably paroled (discharged) on 30 June 1865 in Houston Texas.

Oil and Gas

Another often-quoted Rachal story has to do with oil and gas exploration. Depending on which account you read, the facts vary, but the overall story is the same:

In 1902, Randolph Robinson drilled a test well in the White Point area. This well was drilled on the heels of the great Spindletop gusher that came in a year earlier in 1901 near Beaumont, TX. He abandoned the well at 4000 feet when a pocket of “useless” gas (natural gas) was hit (there was no market for natural gas at that time.)

On 6 September 1913, the White Point Development Company drilled another wildcat well in White Point. This well blew out with a tremendous force due to gas pressure.

Later, the Gulf Coast Oil and Gas Company tried again and on 13 August 1915 they experienced another well blowout in White Point. This time the well blew out again due to the extremely high pressure of the gas underground. The blowout blew the drilling rig hundreds of feet into the air and the gas caught fire. The fire could be seen for miles around and finally burned itself out months later.

The Oil and Gas age had arrived in White Point. Unfortunately, through a series of land sales, D.C. Rachal missed out on the ensuing wealth.

The 1900 Hurricane

Hurricanes have been a big factor in life along the Gulf Coast for many years throughout history. The famous hurricane of 1900 devastated Galveston, Texas, and its surrounding areas. Nothing can be found on how this impacted the Rachals of White Point. Because of the distance between the storm and the ranch, the impact was probably minimal. No doubt they simply experienced heavy rains. The hurricane of 1919, however, was a different story.

The 1919 Hurricane

Hurricanes of the Western Hemisphere were not named until 1953. Similarly, storms did not have category designations until 1971. The hurricane of 1919 was simply that: The Hurricane that hit Corpus Christi, Texas in 1919.

Corpus had a warning. On 18 August 1916, a hurricane hit just south of Corpus Christi. Damage was minimal as was loss of life. The biggest loss was the cotton crop. The Rachal home was battered with rain but otherwise withstood the storm's fury.

The storm of 14 September 1919 was a minor storm by today's standards. Winds were clocked at 75 mph before the wind gauge was destroyed. The main problem with this storm was its tremendous storm surge, reported to be 30 feet high. This surge washed away everything in its path as it moved inland from Corpus Christi Bay towards White Point. On the White Point shores, 75 survivors and 108 bodies washed up on shore along with tons of wood and other debris. All this was stacked over 15 feet tall on the shore. Debris and bodies that washed up on the shore were covered with oil as the result of oil storage tanks or ships that had been destroyed in the path of the storm surge.

The D.C. Rachal home was occupied at this time by D.C.'s son Chris (or Chrys) and his family. D.C. had passed away about a year before, Julia about 8 years before. The Rachals and their workers retreated to the old house to wait out the storm.

The next morning, as the winds subsided and the sun rose, the family was able for the first time to see the devastation including the bodies and debris that had washed up on the shores of White

Point. According to O.K. Crow's narrative "A Watery Grave on Land" written after the hurricane:

When we arrived at White Point at the old Rachal home, we found Mr. Chrys Rachal Sr. there in front of the little school-house, and he had ordered some of the laborers to butcher and barbecue a calf as people were coming to help on horseback and on foot. These had already begun to bring bodies to the school-house on house doors.....We worked checking for identification, checking for jewelry, scars, teeth or anything that would help to identify. Mr. Rachal was having a long grave dug by mules and scrapers that happened to be there on account of the oil company using them to make slush pits. There were thirty two survivors who had no clothes. He wrapped them in whatever he had and put them in two wagons drawn by four mule teams each and sent them to Taft. I will always be grateful to Mr. Rachal and his family for the things he did for those people in distress.

Darius Ciriaque and Julia Bryan Rachal Children, Grandchildren, and Great-grandchildren

The following tables show the children of D.C. and Julia Rachal and their children. Most of the data in these tables comes from the Rachal Family tree created by Bryan Martin. That tree is quite large and cannot be realistically included in this report. The following tables summarize the 4 forward-looking generations beginning with D.C. Rachal. Persons with a black dot in front of their name can call D.C. Rachal their great-grandfather:

Note: based on Bryan Martin's tree, here is the minimum descendent count for Darius Ciriaque and Julia Bryan Rachal:

Children	8 born, 6 survived
Grandchildren	27
Great-grandchildren	60

The following tables detail DC and Julia's children and their families:

Florence Emma Rachal and Peter Armat (P.A.) Hunter

Name	Born	Where	Married	Died	Where
Peter Armat (P.A.) Hunter	2/19/1859	MS	9/18/1884	5/7/1929	Corpus Christi (CC)
Florence Emma Rachal	9/8/1866	Liberty, TX		1/10/1947	CC
Julia Rowena <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edward • Catherine • Edward 	7/14/1885	White Point	Edward Posey Perrenot	3/6/1973	CC
Darius Clayton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florence May • Darius Clayton • Robert Jules • Peter Louis 	8/17/1887	WP	Adeline P. DeMouche	12/25/1966	CC
Mai Francis (Bootie)	6/12/1889	WP	?	12/16/1983	San Antonio, TX
Florence L. (Flarrie)	3/12/1891	WP	?	2/1/1852	CC
Percy Armat	6/10/1896	WP	Ann Taylor	5/2/1981	Falfurrias
Anais K.	11/10/1898	WP	Clyde Enas Plank	5/20/1974	CC
Wilda Bryan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rupert Plaster • Florence 	10/10/1899	WP	Joe Plaster Hall	12/16/1982	San Antonio
Robert Lloyd Michael <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percy Armat • Robert Lloyd • Louis Phillip 	3/3/1902	WP	Genevieve Margaret Becker	12/29/1973	Kingsville

Frank S. Rachal and Anna C. Webster

Name	Born	Where	Married	Died	Where
Frank S. Rachal	11/29/1868	Rosita		3/25/1923	Falfurrias
Anna C. Webster	1/3/1867	TX		4/16/1918	Falfurrias
Lois Edena <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edena Clere • Robert Rachal 	~1893	Beevelle	James Robert Scott, Jr	3/19/1950	LA
Cecile C. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carl Frank • Dick Rachal 	~1897	Sinton	Carl Flake Hopper	3/19/1950	LA

Christopher Pryor Rachal and Elizabeth M. Odem

Name	Born	Where	Married	Died	Where
Christopher Pryor Rachal	2/20/1873	Rosita	11/29/1889	8/31/1842	Rosita
Elizabeth Mary Odem	5/29/1879	Live Oak, TX		10/20/1952	Corpus Christi (CC)
Esilla Mary • Elizabeth Ann	8/17/1900	Rosita	Charles William Wagner	9/26/1980	CC
David Ciriaque • Jeanette Elizabeth • Rachal Katherine	5/15/1902	Rosita	Irene Katherine Sullivan	4/22/1976	CC
Christopher P “Chris”	2/28/1904	Rosita		10/7/1982	CC
Julian Sylvester “Jule”	1/12/1907	Rosita		1/16/1985	AR
Adeline Elizabeth • Joseph Andre (Joe)	4/24/1909	Rosita	James Thomas Hickey, Jr.	10/22/1989	CC
Margaret Frances	7/27/1911	Rosita	John Ball Harney, Jr.	4/13/1995	Nueces Co
Aleece Philomena (Leacy) • 3 children	~1914	Rosita	Reinhold Benjamin Dittman	4/15/1977	Harris Co, TX
Florence Katherine • 7 children	~1916	Rosita	George Watkins White	3/15/1990	?
Billie Bryan (dau)	7/12/1918	Rosita	Donald Joseph Grime	5/7/2005	CC
Darius Randolph	10/22/1920	Rosita	Mary Ann Buckley	11/28/1997	Nueces Co

Christopher Pryor Rachal and Elizabeth M. Odem (continued)					
Name	Born	Where	Married	Died	Where
Caroline Agnes “Carrie” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Francis • Margie Ann • Patrick Anthony • Matthew Rachal • Margaret Elizabeth • Mary Katherine • Virginia Mary 	2/17/1923	Rosita	Matthias Ferdinand Baldeschwiler	1/18/1999	CC

Katherine L. (Kate) Rachal and Dominic Nicolas Dunn

Name	Born	Where	Married	Died	Where
Dominic Nicolas Dunn	9/23/1880	TX		9/7/1933	CC
Katherine L. (Kate) Rachal	2/11/1877	Rosita		11/29/1946	CC
No children					

Ernest Albert Rachal and Maimie E. Gaffney

Name	Born	Where	Married	Died	Where
Ernest Albert Rachal	7/20/1881	Rosita		7/31/1938	Taft
Mary E. (Maimie) Gaffney	3/1882	?		4/5/1958	TX
E.A.	~1910	TX			

William Berwick (Dick) Rachal and Lula P. Shaw

Name	Born	Where	Married	Died	Where
William Berwick "Dick" Rachal	9/8/1885	Rosita	1905	9/26/1929	?
Lula Priscilla Shaw	1/7/1884	CC		8/22/1958	CC
Bernice Aurelia • Richard Berwick • Mary Jan	8/20/1906	TX	Mac McGregor	5/10/1983	Travis Co, TX
Margaret Julia • Susanne • DC • Joe	11/18/1909	TX	Otis McNabb	3/28/1991	Dallas Co
Hal Francis • Hal Jr • Paul • Richard	1/1/1912	TX	Virginia ?	1/22/1993	Midland Co
Darius Ciriaque • Diane Claudia • Mary Pricilla	6/26/1914	TX	Frances Pilant	12/25/1991	CC
Rachel Mary • Frank • Brian • John • Dick	1/10/1916	TX	James Dawson	--	--

Obituaries for D.C. Rachal and Julia Rachal

HALF CENTURY RESIDENT SAN PATRICIO CO. DEAD

Late Darius C. Rachal of La Rosita

Closes Long Life Honored by Coast County Citizens

Special Telegram to the Express

FALFURRIAS, Tex., Sept 7 - Darius C. Rachal for fifty one years a resident of San Patricio County, died at his home, La Rosita, Tuesday, August 27, 1918. Mr. Rachal was born at Clautierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, January 23, 1841, being past 77 at the time of his death. His parents were Ciriaque and Anias Compere Rachal, both Lineal descendants of the Arcadians, who sought asylum in Louisiana and who have been the subjects of song and story for two centuries. The elder Rachals both died many years ago, leaving seven children, of whom now only two survive.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Rachal enlisted in the 5th Texas Infantry which was a part of Hood's Brigade. He was sent to Virginia where his command was engaged in nearly all the great battles fought by Lee's army. He took part in the Seven Day's Battle in the Wilderness, was at Second Manassas, at Sharpsburg, in the very front of Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania, took part in the immortal three days at Gettysburg, was foremost in defense of Fredericksburg and was with Hood during the terrific hand to hand struggle at Chickamauga. When the battle flags had been furled and the last musket had been stacked, Captain Rachal returned to Texas and engaged in the cattle business living two years in Calhoun County. Subsequently he removed to San Patricio County where he has resided ever since.

From 1876 to 1890 Captain Rachal was one of the largest cattle raisers in the State and his home place is now one of the most extensive plantations in Texas, while he owns in addition several hundred acres of very valuable land seven miles north of Corpus Christi overlooking the bay. His home, La Rosita, is one of the most beautiful locations on the Texas coast. The Famous gas well at White's Point is on his land, just a half mile from the house. Mr. Rachal was laid to rest by the side of his wife, who preceded him in death seven years ago, in the family burying ground, in a pretty little glade facing the bay.

He is survived by a sister Mrs. L.A. Bitterman of Orange Grove, a brother E.R. Rachal, Falfurrias; two daughters Mrs. P.A. Hunter of Sinton and Mrs. Tom Dunn of La Rosita and four sons F.S. of Falfurrias and C.P., E.A., and W.B. of La Rosita, besides twenty-five grand children and eight great-grandchildren.

The flower girls at his funeral were his granddaughters, Mrs. J.R. Scott Jr, Misses May Frances Hunter, Florence Emma Hunter, Anias Katherine Hunter, Cecile Clere Rachal, Eailia Mary Rachal, Mrs. J.P. Hall, and Mrs. D.C. Rachal.

The active pall- bearers were D.C. Hunter, Lloyd Hunter, Percy Hunter, J.R. Scott, Jr., Dave C. Rachal, and J. P. Hall, his grandsons.

The honorary pall bearers were Judge James B. Wells, Brownsville, S.G. Ragland, Kingsville, D. Odem, Sinton, R.A. Arnold, Portland, J.C. Herring, Rockport, Pat McGloin, San Antonio, J.W. Shaw, San Diego, P. F. Dunn, Corpus Christi, W.F. Timon, Corpus Christi, W.W. Sloan, Jr., Falfurrias, R.R. Savage, Charles Weil, Charles Menly, E.A. Born, Eli Merriman, T.B. Smithgate, J.C. Bluntzer, and E.R. Suntherland, Corpus Christi; J.W. Baylor, R.E. Turner, Odem; J.D. Wills, J.F. Green, Gregory; Judge F.S. Chambliss, Beeville; J.D. Caddie, J.G. Cook, M.C. Nelson, J.I. Phillips, Judge A. L. Neal and Dr. W.C. Reinhardt, Sinton; Dr. H. Redmond, Corpus Christi, and John O'Doharty, Beeville. An interesting fact in connection is that a coach, loaded with lifelong friends who attended the funeral from Corpus carried none who had resided in Corpus under fifty years.

DEATH OF MRS. RACHAL
Prominent Resident of San Patricio County Passes Away

Portland, Texas, April 8 (1911) Died at her home in Rosita, San Patricio County, on the night of April 6th Mrs Julia Roena Rachal (nee Bryan) aged 65 years, 5 months and 4 days.

Mrs. Rachal was one of the most widely known and the best loved women of San Patricio County; was born at Liberty, Liberty County, and was married to D.C. Rachal on Dec. 29, 1864, and three years later moved to White's Point, now Rosita, near the mouth of the Nueces River, where she resided till her death. Deceased united with the Catholic Church fifteen years ago, and died in that faith. She leaves a husband, four sons, two daughters and a number of grandchildren. All who know her were her friends.

The sons are Frank S., of Falfurrias; Christopher P., of Sinton, Ernest E. of Rosita and William B. of Sinton. The daughters are Mrs. P.A. Hunter, wife of County Judge Hunter, and Mrs. D.M. Dunn, both of Portland.

Resources

Diane Rachal Pinter
Rachel Rachal Dawson
Dick Dawson
John Dawson

The Rachal Family tree created by Bryan Martin.

The Rachals of White Point, a paper by Rachel B. Hebert, date unknown

A Research paper on the Rachal, Bryan, White, Whitlock, Fisher, Demouche, and Hunter Families, a paper by Bette Hunter Ash, 1982

Paper by Wallace A. Clark, date unknown.

www.callertimes.com/2000/december/20/today/murphy_g/12571.html

www.caller.com/news/2008/sep/02/king-kenedy-pierce-the-grande-dees-of-grass/

http://books.google.com/books?id=jaSqzvV1NUIC&pg=PA807&lpg=PA807&dq=d+c+r+achal&source=web&ots=0kyfNvq4c7&sig=y0WAvlyP-EZlWq4rrMDTj_WfP5M&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=7&ct=result

<http://www.caller.com/news/2006/may/03/town-was-stricken-in-killer-summer-of-1867/>

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/books/texasclassics/traildrivers/txu-oclc-12198638-b-05.html>

www.lib.utexas.edu/books/texasclassics/traildrivers/txu-oclc-12198638-c-0810.html

www.ancestry.com

www.familysearch.com

The Handbook of Texas Online:

www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bb

Frontier Week booklet, March 5-12, 1983, honoring Edward Rene Rachal, Jr.

Also, “google” D C Rachal for additional sites.

Plus, the resources listed on page 2 of this report.

A NOTE TO READERS

Please contribute any information, and corrections, you may have about this family, including stories and family member names, to:

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dianepinter@aol.com

817 Sierra Blanco Loop
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The End