

“THE RAINWATER FAMILY” Based on a Signed Article by Mrs. Charles C. Rainwater (16 Jun 1932 The Missourian)

Since Dr. (and Rev.) Moses Rainwater was one of the pioneer, sterling characters of Ray Co., MO and his only [surviving] son, Maj. Charles C. Rainwater, became one of the foremost business men and civic leaders of

Saint Louis, builder of the Merchant's Bridge, 'Ray County Chapters' fails not to honor the Rainwater family.

To give the personal touch to the memory of the Ray Rainwaters, it is timely to quote a letter written to Jewell Mayes,

RAINWATER RESEARCHER

December 10, 1928, by the widow of Major C. C. Rainwater of St. Louis, her present home (1932) being 21 Benton Place in that city.

By Mrs. Charles C. Rainwater- The suggestion that I give a note of my life as a 'Rayite or relative of a Rayite-past or present,' takes me back seventy years to September the 18th, 1856, when my young husband, only twenty years of age, took me as a bride, not yet nineteen, to the old home at Millville, in Ray County, MO.

We were greeted by the entire family, Father and Mother Rainwater and their seven daughters, Juliette Grimes, Catherine Young and Sarah Petree, and their husbands. Later Margaret became a Yoakum, Amelia a Pugh, Mary a Pinckard and Alice, then only two years old, in due time married a Mr. Sanderson of TX. A happy family!

Father Rainwater was born in 1804. Mother in 1815. They were married in 1832, came from TN to MO, with two small children, in 1836, stopping in Howard County on year and then becoming Rayites, settling near Knoxville, where the family resided for a number of years, and then they went to Millville, where they lived until the children all married.

Father Rainwater was a 'Country Doctor', and went far and near to his patients. 'Old Dock' was routed out any time of night or day, hot or cold. Snows were deeper then than now. Sometimes drifts would be over the tops of fences, and in some places so deep the horse could not go through-and detours would have to be made.

Shortly after becoming a member of the Rainwater family, father said to me: 'Daughter, I am not sure that you and Charlie have not committed a sin in getting married.' 'How is that?' I asked, and his reply was: 'My mother was a Fowler.'

My maiden name was Sarah Hannah Fowler, born December 26, 1838 in Calvert County, MD. My father, Samuel Fowler, and his wife, Mary Ann Eastwood, brought me to Missouri when I was four months old and settled in Benton Co., MO, where

many of the younger generation still reside. I was a Rayite only one winter.

In 1860, my husband went into business in Benton County, at a little place called Cole Camp, and was there when the Civil War began. He joined the Southern forces, and served on General Marmaduke's staff as Major of Artillery, General Price's division, until the summer of 1864, when he was desperately wounded in the battle at Ditch Bian, in AR. In the fall he was given an honorable discharge.

In October, 1864 I ran the blockade to him. We were in Clarksville, TX, when the surrender came, and remained there until the latter part of August, 1865, when we went by the way of New Orleans to St. Louis, where we established our permanent home.

We were in the habit of visiting father and mother in Ray County at least once a year. As they grew older, and the children were all married, the time came when they must leave their home in old Ray. In 1880, they came to spend their last days with their son and daughter-in-law in their home, 21 Benton Place, St. Louis, MO.

Major Rainwater was always glad that we could care for father and mother in their declining years. It was a pleasure to have them with us. Father passed away in 1886; mother in 1895; Margaret Yoakum, 1900; Juliette Grimes, 1901; Major Rainwater, 1902; Amelia Pugh, next Alice Sanderson, 1912; Sarah Petree, 1919; Mary Pinckard, 1927, the last of that large and happy family.

All of the daughters except one left children to represent them, with families scattered in many sections of the country. Many in Ray County, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Seattle, and other places.

I have not visited the old home for many years. The last time I was in Ray County was in the year of 1924, when I visited a grand-nephew, Rainwater Wollard, and niece, Sarah H. Lamar, near Polo.