

The Claim of James Rainwater of Washington Co., AR

to the Southern Claims Commission

Claim #21805, paid out at \$273.00

Transcriber's notes: *The original document includes three pages of questions, followed by many pages of numbered answers. Unfortunately, the answers rarely match the numbered questions, and in context make little sense. In these cases I have matched the context of the question to the answer given, but this may be a gross misinterpretation. These are indicated by "q", number of the actual question as I read it, and "a", the number written beside the answer. This transcription is abridged.*

It is hereby certified that on the 25 day of February 1873 at Fayetteville, in the county of Washington and State of Arkansas, personally came before me the following persons, viz: **James Rainwater, claimant**; and John Thomas, Miss Martha Cook, Miss Elizabeth Jack, William Jack, Richard Glazebrook, claimant's witnesses.

Witness my hand and seal this 2nd day of May 1874

E. B. Harrison, Special Commissioner of the Commissioners of Claims

1. *What is your name, your age, your residence and how long has it been such, and your occupation?* My name is James Rainwater, my age 64 years, my residence Warsaw, Bestan Co.?, in the state of Missouri, and my occupation a Farmer.

(a2) If you are not the claimant, in what manner are you related to the claimant? (q4) Where were you residing and what was your business for six months before the outbreak of the rebellion, and where did you reside and what was your business from the beginning to the end of the war? And if you changed your residence or business, state how many times and why such changes were made? I lived 5 miles east of Fayetteville, Washington Co., AR from April 1st 1861 to July 1863 when the Rebels got so bad I had to move to Fayetteville for the protection of the Federal Army. Up to the time I move to Fayetteville, I had charge of and cultivated the County Poor Farm. I leased the farm at \$60.00 cash rent per year. I remained at Fayetteville out of business until March 4th 1867 when I took my family with and under the protection of a military escort to Warsaw, MO, where I rented a farm and have been there ever since.

22. *Did you ever do anything for the Confederate cause, or render any aid or comfort to the rebellion?* Only as stated under question 2.

(a24) Were you in any service, business or employment for the Confederacy or for any rebel authority? (q21) Was any of your property confiscated by rebel authority? (q26) Did you ever take any oath to the so-called Confederate States while in any rebel service or employment? I was arrested at Freeshlay's Mill by some bushwhackers in Nov 1864. The men who

arrested me told me they had an order from Capt. Brown to do it. They kept me two days and nights. Took me about ten miles and then turned me loose, saying Brown ordered them to do it. They did not ask me to take any oath. I was arrested at Elm Springs on my way to the Mill in Nov 1862 by some of Blunt's¹ soldiers. They kept me a day and night and then the Adjutant came along and turned me loose and told me to go home. No oath was required.

(a25) Were you in the civil, military or naval service of the Confederacy or any rebel State in any capacity whatsoever? (q27) Did you ever have charge of any stores or other property for the Confederacy or any rebel state in any capacity whatsoever? The Rebels took two horses from me in Nov 1862. They did not pay me.

(a26) Did you ever take any oath to the so-called Confederate States while in any rebel service or employment? (q18) Were you ever threatened with damage or injury to your person, family or property on account of your Union sentiments? I was threatened with hanging on streets of Fayetteville in the early part of the war by a Rebel named Cunningham. Other threats and intimidation's of violence were made to me after [unreadable - possibly accusations] of my being a Union man.

(29a) Were you interested in any vessel navigating the waters of the Confederacy? (q30) Did you ever subscribe any loan of the so called Confederate States, or of any rebel State; or own Confederate bonds or securities, etc.? No - only to say all [unreadable] for the Union and assist the Union people to the extent of my ability.

(30a) Did you ever subscribe to any loan of the so-called Confederate States or of any rebel state; or own Confederate bonds or securities, or the bonds or securities of any rebel state issued between 1861 and 1865? (q36) Have you any relatives in the Confederate army or in any military or naval service hostile to the United States? Only one, a nephew (Charles Rainwater). I furnished him nothing when he enlisted or while in the Service. He lived in Missouri. He lives now in St. Louis.

(40a) Were you ever a prisoner to the United States authorities, or on parole or under bonds to do nothing against the Union cause? (q5) On which side were your sympathies during the war, and were they on the same side from beginning to end? At the beginning of the Rebellion and all the way through, my sympathies were for the Union & I voted against Secession and opposed it by my influence and [unreadable] and when my state seceded, I remained a Union man.

(41a) Were you ever arrested by the authorities of the United States during the war? (q7) Were you at all times during the war willing and ready to do whatever you could in aid of the Union cause? I do say yes to such clause of that question. I have been this all my life.

Part II. I was present and saw all the property charged in my claim taken. Items 1, 2 & 3 were taken at the time I was arrested by Blunt's Army (see answer to question no. 24). I

¹General James Gillpatrick Blunt, Union

was on my way to Mill in Elm Springs with a major yoke of oxen & load of corn and my boy was driving the oxen and I was riding the mare (Item 3). Genl. Blunt's Army was camped in the county. Schofield² I think was at Elm Springs. On my way, and before I got to the Mill, I met 5 Federal Soldiers. They asked me where I was going. I told them to Mill. They said they was after such men as me and one of them ordered me to light. I declined to get down and the soldiers fetched out an oath or two and I thought it best to light and the soldiers got my mare and tied his horse to a wagon that they had.

Items No. 4 & 5 were taken by the forage train of the 1st Arkansas Infantry from Fayetteville. About four weeks before I moved to the Port (in Dec 1862), the train came out and took two army wagon loads of my corn and one stack of fodder. The wagons were well loaded full. I [unreadable] there was 20 bushels to the load. I think there was 400 bundles of fodder in the stack. That was what I generally put in a stack. I just came up as the train was moving out of the field with the forage. They seemed ill (in bad temper) and I said nothing to them and never made any effort to get pay and never did in any receipt or voucher.

I reckon the corn was worth \$1.00 per bushel. I guess the fodder was worth about \$1.50 per 100 bundles.

James {his x mark} Rainwater

Subscribed and sworn to before this 25th day of February 1873.

E. B. Harrison, Special Commissioner

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²General John McAllister Schofield, Union