

## **Josiah W. Rainwater, 1843-1934, Texas**

Josiah Wilson Rainwater was born and reared on a farm near Somerset, Pulaski County, Kentucky, October 11, 1843. Volunteered for service in the Union Army of the Civil War, November 5, 1861, and was discharged at the close of the war on January 13, 1865. Was married to Elizabeth Jane Weddle on January 11, 1866. to which union was born seven girls and two boys, all of whom are living and present at the time of his decease.

He was in the mercantile business at Waterloo, Kentucky and made Postmaster there. He served as Tax Assessor and Collector for a number of years in Pulaski County, Kentucky.

In 1890, he sold his holdings and moved to Williamson County, Texas. There he lived on the farm for a number of years, establishing the Post Office, Waterloo, Texas, and served as Postmaster for some time, engaging in mercantile business there. Took an active part in school affairs and for many years was a member of the Board of Education.

In 1907, he sold his holdings and moved to Wilbarger County, Texas where he resided on his farm northeast of Oklaunion until he moved to Vernon in 1919 where he made his home until his death.

He was made a Director in the First State Bank of Oklaunion in 1914 to 1927. Joined the Baptist Church in March, 1871, and was active in church work until recent years. Was a member of the Board of Deacons of the First Baptist Church of Vernon until his death. Was raised as a Master Mason in Kentucky in 1867 and served as Worshipful Master for a number of years, last membership being with Vernon Lodge A.F. & A.M. #655.

Assisted in enumerating United States census, years 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910.

His father was Bartholomew Rainwater, who was a school teacher. Was born in Stokes County, North Carolina, January 20, 1804. His mother was Nancy McLaughlin, born August 2, 1807.

Josiah Wilson Rainwater was a Captain under General Grant in the Civil War.\* He was in the army five years and was wounded twice in the right leg and once in the left arm.

He passed away at his home in Vernon, Texas, March 16, 1934.

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From the Vernon Daily Record, Vernon, Wilbarger Co., TX, 17 Mar 1934. Transcription contributed by Frances Aderholt Smith.

\*He was an Ordnance Sergeant, not a Captain