

October 8, 1909

“I am the oldest Rainwater that I know anything of except for two brothers, one of whom lives in Kentucky and is upwards of 80 years old and very feeble¹. ... My brother Miles Rainwater lives in Upland, California, he is about 75 years of age and has been in very poor health for a number of years.

William Rainwater, my grandfather, came to Pulaski County, Kentucky from Stokes County, North Carolina in the year 1816. He raised a family of eleven, six boys and five girls. The names of his sons were Bartholomew, James, Abram, John, William, and Miles. Bartholomew was my father and the oldest of the family. Uncle James was the next oldest and was your great-grandfather. His wife was Polly McDaniel, they raised ten children, three sons and seven daughters. Their boys' names were Enoch, William, and John. The family is all dead except two girls. John was your grandfather and married Sarah Porter, daughter of William L. Porter, a Baptist preacher. John moved to Illinois from Pulaski County, Kentucky a short time before the Civil War, enlisted in the army and died. His widow returned to her father's, who was our nearest neighbor, and remained a few years, went back to Illinois when James H. and John were small boys. Her father from some cause became demented and hung himself.”

Partial transcription of a letter written by Josiah W. Rainwater to Julius Rainwater. Transcription by Tom Rittenburg, 29 June 2000

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¹ Daniel M. Rainwater