

Information Sheet

R Rainwater family.

227 Rainwater and Fowler families, papers, 1863-1939.
Two folders, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are Civil War letters of Maj. Charles C. Rainwater, a Confederate officer, to his wife, Sarah Fowler Rainwater, at Cole Camp in Benton County, Missouri. The letters mention fighting at Hartville and Cape Girardeau, and Rainwater's disabilities from wounds. There are also genealogical data on Samuel Fowler and his family, and biographical sketches of Sarah Fowler Rainwater.

A general merchant in Cole Camp, Missouri, when the Civil War began, Charles Cicero Rainwater (1837-1902) joined the secessionist Missouri State Guard as a second lieutenant of the "Warsaw Guards." He subsequently served in the Confederate 5th Missouri Infantry as a captain and major. Rainwater was appointed ordnance officer on the staff of Gen. John S. Marmaduke in 1863. He was described as a cheerful, brave, and unselfish comrade, though prone to being wounded. Rainwater's third and most serious wound was sustained on 6 June 1864 at Ditch Bayou, Arkansas, and disabled him for further combat service. He served on Gen. Jo Shelby's staff until the end of the war as an agent of a scheme to export Confederate cotton through Mexico.

Rainwater took a position with a hat manufacturing firm in St. Louis immediately following the war. He was later the president and manager of the *St. Louis Times*, was a member of the partnership which built Merchant's Bridge over the Mississippi River, and was president of the St. Louis Street Cleaning Company. He was very active in fraternal, business, and Confederate veterans' circles, and was founder of the Rainwater Rifles, a marching drill team. Rainwater died on 10 November 1902 at his home in St. Louis and is buried in Belfontaine Cemetery.

Sarah Hannah Fowler (1839-1937) was born in Calvert County, Maryland. Her father, Samuel Fowler (1814-1871), also a native of Maryland, brought his family to Benton County, Missouri, in the spring of 1840. Sarah was educated at Boonville's Tracy School and Payne College in Fayette. She was teaching school in Cole Camp when she met Rainwater. The two married in September 1858. She returned to live with her father when her husband joined the Southern forces. Threats against secessionists in 1863 caused the family to remove to Maryland. Sarah made an arduous journey through Union lines in 1864 upon learning that her husband had been seriously wounded. She took him to Clarksville, Texas, for his recovery and remained there until the end of the war. The Rainwaters moved to St. Louis in late 1865. Sarah Fowler Rainwater was prominently identified with several charitable organizations in the city, particularly the Women's Christian Association, with which she was involved from 1872 until her death in 1939. She is buried next to her husband in Belfontaine Cemetery.

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16 May 1985

Robert and Ruth Fowler

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Shelf List

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Folder 1: Rainwater's Civil War papers, 1863-1865 (17 pages).

20 Jan 1863 T. R. Ferguson, Post Surgeon, Hartville, Mo., to Daniel Fowler,

- Cole Camp, Mo., written at the request of Maj. C. C. Rainwater following the battle at Hartville on 11 January 1863.
- 29 Apr 1863 C. C. Rainwater, Bloomfield, Mo., to Sarah Fowler Rainwater, Cole Camp, Mo.; includes comments on Gen. John S. Marmaduke's expedition to Cape Girardeau, Mo.
- 06 Jul 1863 C. C. Rainwater, Jacksonport, Ark., to Sarah Fowler Rainwater, Cole Camp, Mo.; speculates on Confederate retreat south of the White River.
- 17 Feb 1864 Certificate of Disability; Confederate States army medical review board recommends Maj. C. C. Rainwater be retired due to gunshot wounds to the head and hip.
- 02 Jul 1864 Sarah Fowler Rainwater, Annapolis, Md., to C. C. Rainwater in Arkansas.
- 04 Oct 1864 C. C. Rainwater, Hamburg, Ark., to Sarah Fowler Rainwater (Annapolis, Md.?); a brief note accompanied with verse.
- 31 Dec 1865 C. C. Rainwater, Jackson, Miss., to Samuel Fowler, Cole Camp, Mo.; comments on conditions in post-war South as seen on trip through Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Folder 2: Fowler family; miscellaneous biographical and genealogical data, ca. 1865-1937.

- ca. 1865-1937 Copies of records from Fowler family Bible.
- 27 Mar 1921 Sarah Fowler Rainwater, St. Louis, Mo., to "Smith," n.p.; contains an outline of the Fowler family.
- 10 Feb 1929 Article on philanthropic work of Mrs. C. C. Rainwater, as published in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.
- ca. 1934 "A short history of the life and activities of Mrs. Sarah Hannah Fowler Rainwater," by a "friend."
- n.d. "Samuel Fowler and family."
- n.d. "Fowler family."
- n.d. "Biographical sketch of Sarah Fowler Rainwater."
- n.d. "Reminiscences of Mrs. C. C. Rainwater," concerning early days in Benton County, Mo., from a Warsaw, Mo., newspaper.

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Index Cards

Arkansas—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
 Benton County (Mo.).
 Bloomfield (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
 Cape Girardeau (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
 Cole Camp (Mo.).
 Ferguson, T. R.
 Fowler, Daniel.
 Fowler, Samuel, 1814-1871.
 Fowler family—Genealogy.
 Hartville (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
 Jacksonport (Ark.).
 Jackson (Miss.).
 Mississippi—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
 Missouri—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
 Rainwater, Charles Cicero, 1837-1902.
 Rainwater, Sarah Fowler, 1839-1937.
 Saint Louis Woman's Christian Association (Saint Louis, Mo.).
 United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.