



Rainwater Family Papers (R0227)

Collection Number: R0227

Collection Title: Rainwater Family Papers

Dates: 1863-1937

Creator: Rainwater, Charles C., 1837-1902

Abstract: The Rainwater Family Papers contain photocopies of the Civil War letters of Major Charles C. Rainwater, a Confederate officer, to his wife, Sarah *Fowler* Rainwater, at Cole Camp, 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.

Collection Size: 0.02 cubic foot
(2 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Rainwater Family Papers* (R0227); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for copying to the University of Missouri by Robert and Ruth Fowler on May 16, 1985 (Accession No. RA0224).

Alternate Forms Available: Digital images from the Rainwater Family Papers are available online at <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/amcw>.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Rainwater Family Papers can be found in the following collections:

John Calvin Hughes Papers (R0309)

Kesler and Lytle Families Papers (R0448)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, August 20, 1985. Revised by Kathleen Seale, December 10, 2021.

Biographical Note:

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 General 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 June 6, 1864 at Ditch Bayou, Arkansas, and disabled him for further combat service. He served on General 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 November 10, 1902 at his home in St. Louis and is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Sarah Hannah Fowler was born in 1839 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 1937. She is buried next to her husband in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains Civil War letters from Major Charles C. Rainwater to his wife Sarah *Fowler* Rainwater at Cole Camp, Benton County, Missouri. His letters were written from Hartville and Bloomfield in Missouri, Jacksonport and Hamburg, Arkansas, and from Jackson,

Mississippi. Also included is a copy of his certificate of disability and a letter from Sarah from Annapolis, Maryland to Charles in Arkansas.

Also included is biographical and genealogical information about the Fowler family, mostly Sarah *Fowler* Rainwater and her father Samuel Fowler. Of note are newspaper articles written by Sarah about her life and the early days of Benton County, Missouri.

Photographs were taken of family heirlooms, a pistol, rifle, sword, and quilt. Also included photographs of Charles Rainwater, John W. Fowler, Samuel Fowler and his wife Mary Ann Fowler. These images are available in the collections administration folder as slide negatives.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Correspondence, 1863-1865
	f. 2	Fowler family papers, circa 1865-1937

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Arkansas--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1-2	
Benton County (Mo.)	1-2	
Bloomfield (Mo.)	1	
Cape Girardeau (Mo.)	1	
Cole Camp (Mo.)	1-2	
Ferguson, T. R.	1	
Fowler, Daniel	2	
Fowler, Samuel, 1814-1871	2	Yes
Fowler family	1-2	
Hartville (Mo.)	1	
Jacksonport (Ark.)	1	
Jackson (Miss.)	1	
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1	
Rainwater, Charles Cicero, 1837-1902	1-2	Yes
Rainwater, Sarah Fowler, 1839-1937	1-2	
Saint Louis Woman's Christian Association (Saint Louis, Mo.)	2	