

Lawrence County, Names Recorded in Joseph Rawlins's Ledgers, 1851–1856

Noah Dahlquist and Kathleen M. Breen

The Joseph Rawlins General Store Ledgers are two bound volumes dating from 1851 to 1856, held in the general collection at the Indiana Historical Society. Rawlins, a native of Kentucky, moved to Lawrence County, Indiana, where he lived for the remainder of his life.¹ In Rawlins's funeral announcement it states, "This town [Bedford], where nearly all the years of his active business life were spent, was noted in its early days (sixty years ago) for its men of enterprise and business capacity; of these none were more prominent in the encouragement and advancement of its material interests and improvements than Mr. Rawlins."²

Rawlins served as a county lister, commissioner, and county treasurer. Two of these positions we commonly see today, whereas a lister is a term not currently used. According to a Lawrence/Monroe County history, a lister is another term for an accessor. The county accessor's job is to value and assess real estate and personal property within a county.³ Besides work in the county government, for almost thirty years Rawlins operated a general store he had purchased from Irwin & Stewart. He apparently made a good living with the store and amassed a fortune. The store closed in 1856.⁴ The Joseph Rawlins ledger shows the transactions between Rawlins and his customers over the years from 1851 to 1856. The ledger shows a wide range of cash transactions with products such as eggs, butter, coffee, and tobacco.⁵ This ledger is only one of many general store ledgers at the William H. Smith Memorial Library. Other examples include the Thorntown Store Ledger, James E. Smith Ledgers, Elijah Tyner Store Ledger, and the James Townsend Store Ledger.⁶ To learn more about the Rawlins ledger or any of the others you can search the IHS online library catalog at <https://indianahistorylibrary.on.worldcat.org/discovery>.

Listed below are the names of customers and their transactions at Rawlins's store. Each name was written on a page with the transactions that that person or business had with Mr. Rawlins. The page numbers are listed next to each name, and the names are placed in alphabetical order by surname.

Notes

1. Charles Latham, "Collection Guide to Joseph Rawlins Ledgers, 1851–1856," Indiana Historical Society, 1995, <https://www.indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/joseph-rawlins-ledgers-1851-1856.pdf>.
2. Obituary for Joseph Rawlins, Bedford, Indiana, August 25, 1885, from newspaper clipping of unknown newspaper in files of Julia Rawlins, dated May 16, 1997, digitized and published in www.rawlins.org by Stephen Rawlins at http://www.rawlins.org/histories/html/rawlins_joseph_funeral.html.
3. *History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana: Their People, Industries, and Institutions* (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1914); "Assessor's Duties & Responsibilities," Franklin County, Missouri, <https://www.franklinmo.org/index.asp?SEC=FAB0BAC9-F52C-487C-9C70-AAE452159CEF&DE=91B97032-314C-4929-9138-8206C0145F40>, accessed April 7, 2020.
4. Latham, "Collection Guide to Joseph Rawlins Ledger, 1851–1856."
5. Joseph Rawlins Ledgers, 1851–1856, Indiana Historical Society.
6. Thorntown Store Ledger, 1862–1864, Indiana Historical Society, <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/thorntown-store-ledger-1862-1864.pdf>; James E. Smith Ledgers 1865–1880, Indiana Historical Society, <https://indianahistorylibrary.on.worldcat.org/oclc/28165061>; Elijah Tyner Store Ledger, 1832–1849, Indiana Historical Society, <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/elijah-tyner-store-ledger-1832-1849.pdf>; James Townsend Store Ledger, 1830–1832, Indiana Historical Society, <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/james-townsend-store-ledger-1830-1832.pdf>.

Index to Rawlins Ledgers

[---], Isaac (79)
[---]? Jim (29)
[---], John M (68)
[---]umey, Edward (88)
[---]unny, John (13)
[W---?], Murphy (63)

Anderson, Isabel (14)
Ashton, Edward (76)

Bailey, Levi (110)
Baugh, Henry (103)
Baugh, Sam. (103)
Beck, [---] (138)
Bennet, Sam (77)
Biggs, Mrs. Robert (87)
Borland, David (45)
Boyd, James (35)
Bradley, Patrick (35)
Braxton, E. (96)
Brown, Elizabeth (108)
Brown, John (43)
Brudi, William M (76)
Bryant, M Lane (67)
Burns, James (7)
Burns, James (91)
Butler, Alexander (97)

C., Murphy (124)
Campbell, Delacour (4)
Campbells, Miss (102)
Carter, Josh (89)
Carvy, Obe (72)
Clifford, Stephen (44)
Cline, Solomon (89)
Clover, J. R. (132)
Colwell, Joh (43)
Compton, B. (104)
Connelly, JOS (62)
Culberton, Henry (90)
Cull, David
Cumpston, W. M. (71)

Daggy, William (29)
Dalton, Brad (65)
Dalton, John (101)
Daniels, Mrs (116)
Davis, James (127)
Day, Samuel (113)
Denson, Isaac (3)
Denson, Isaac (118)
Donald, John S. W. (93)
Donica, Caswel (42)
Dougherty, Turner (40)
Douglas, James (55)

East, Pinkney (120)
Eldridge, Solomon
Eldridge, Solomon (98)
Elmore, William

Embry, Peter (136)	Hoolihan, [---] (137)
Enose Thomas (26)	Hopkins, Joshua (125)
Evens, Edward (70)	Horton, John (137)
Everside, John Jr. (123)	Houston, James L. (46)
Eversole, John (54)	Houston, M. W. (95)
Farmer, Michael (19)	Irwin, S. F. (5)
Francis, Portman (120)	Irwin, S. F. (100)
Glover, John (15)	James, Patton (89)
Glover, John (111)	James, Nelson (131)
Glover, Warren (125)	Johnson, James (9)
Glover, Weir (34)	Johnson, Joel (102)
Grant, Thomas (36)	Jonas, Ikerd, Jr (80)
Gray, James W. (28)	Judah, Isreal (75)
Grayson, Katherine (53)	Keithly, Jesse (88)
Greer, Thomas (82)	Keller, Joseph (86)
Hall, [Ward?] (130)	Kern, Eli (21)
Hamer, F. C. (64)	Kern, L. D. (24)
Hamilton, R. F. (68)	Kinnick, Jack (34)
Hardy, Henry (74)	Lavake, Charles (51)
Hardy, Owen L (24)	Leach, M. W. (23)
Havron, John M. (20)	Lewis, Andy (22)
Helton, Andrew (83)	Lewis, Potter (86)
Henderson, Joseph (1)	Lewis, Thomas (1)
Hendricks, E. M.	Lowry, John (88)
Henry, William M (136)	[Lunn?], G. G. (47)
Hirshew, Jo (123)	
Hodge, Lewis (80)	
Hodgeman, M. (119)	

Makott, William (70)	Prather, Jas. B. (33)
Martin, Jas (39)	Prince, John (61)
McCavron, J. W. (112)	
McFall, James (121)	Ramsey, Milton (115)
McPeters, Robert (52)	Rariden, S. H. (49)
Messer, Obe (78)	Rawlins, J. M. (115)
Mitchell, Jesse A. (81)	Rawlins, Joseph (10 and 17)
Mitchell, W C (50)	Reed, Hiram (51)
Mitchell, Wintersmith (104)	Richard, Williams (59)
Moran, Michael J (12)	Riter, Isaac (73)
Moran, Patrick (126)	Roach, John (33)
Moran, Patrick (134)	Robertson, Elijah (41)
Morgan, P W (93)	Rogers, Jason (58)
New Albany Salem R. Road Co. (107)	Sabin, Rev. E. W. (128)
Northcraft, Davis (131)	Shipman, Alfred (25)
Northcraft, W. M. (32)	Shipman, John (37)
	Shipman, John (114)
Oaks, Leach (78)	Shipman, John L. (18)
Otis, Rose (133)	Smith, Old Man (92)
Owens, [---] (130)	Smith, William (135)
Owens, John (69)	Smith, William (Millers) (6)
Owens, Martial (122)	Stipp, William (79)
Owen, Sidney (109)	Stitson, Jo (77)
Pace, William (122)	Taylor, James W. (66)
Parks, R. M. (62)	Thomasson, J. D. (121)
Pennington, Jo	Thompson, J. D. (110)
Potter, Mrs. Ben (53)	Thornton, Geo A (106)
Potter, John, Sr. (60)	Turner, Grivil (2)
	Turner, Madison (27)

Turner, Madison (76)

Turner, Reuben (48)

Vestal, John Sr.

Walker, Alex (31)

Walters, Dent (38)

Watson, William (8)

Watson, William (57)

Wilder, Austin + Mrs Wilder (74)

Williams, Bartemius (105)

Williams, Isaac (53)

Williams, J. D. (84)

Williams, J. I. D

Wilson, David (133)

Wise, [---] royless (36)

Woody, William (117)

Yandal, Mrs. (26)

Young, A. G. (92)

Younger, Garret (21)

Younger, Steven (30)

Zahn, John (41)