

CHARLES T. RAINIER, M.D., an active and public-spirited citizen of Monroe, Adams County, is a native of Ocean County, New Jersey, born October 28, 1842, a son of Aaron B. and Esther T. (Pratt) Rainier, natives of New Jersey and Maryland respectively, the father born November 6, 1805, of French descent, and the mother born May 8, 1804. They were married in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 17, 1828, and to them were born eight sons and two daughters, our subject being the ninth child. Early in life the father learned the cabinet-maker's trade in New York City. After his marriage he settled at Columbus, New Jersey, where he experienced religion and entered the ministry, uniting with the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1844 he emigrated with his family to Franklin County, Indiana, and worked at his trade at Metamora. He entered the Southern Indiana Conference when he first came to the State. He afterward left Franklin County for Madison County, where he followed farming for three years, when he entered the Northern Indiana Conference, of which he was a member until his death, November 6, 1878. After disposing of his farm he spent three years on the Middletown Circuit, after which he returned with his family to Philadelphia and engaged in the mercantile trade, which he continued about three years. He then returned to Middletown and re-entered the ministry, and while there was a presiding elder of the Northern Indiana Conference. He afterward removed to Richwood, Delaware County, Indiana, where his wife died August 3, 1861. He afterward traveled over many of the counties in the northern and central part of Indiana, being one of the circuit riders of that day, and would frequently be gone several weeks at a time. He died at the home of his son at Monroe, Adams County.

Charles T. Rainier, whose name heads this sketch, came with his parents to Indiana when about two years of age. He remained at home with his parents until July 18, 1862, receiving his education in the common school of his neighborhood. He then enlisted in Company H, Sixty-ninth Indiana Infantry and was with the Thirteenth Army Corps. He participated in the battles of Richmond, Kentucky, Arkansas Post, and siege of Vicksburg, besides other battles and skirmishes. He served until October, 1864, when he was discharged for disability contracted in the army. He now draws a pension. After his discharge he returned to his father's house in Grant County, Indiana, and for three years following he was engaged in teaching school during the winter terms, and reading medicine in the summer months. He then began the practice of medicine at West Liberty, Jay County, Indiana, but after a time, his health failing him, he was obliged to give up his practice, after which he went to Allegan County, Michigan, and attended a course of lectures in the medical department of the Michigan State University. After remaining there a year and a half he came to Adams County, Indiana, in September, 1869, and engaged in the practice of medicine at Salem. He remained there two years, when he removed to Monroe, Monroe Township, where he followed his chosen profession. He was one of the first settlers, and he erected the first building on the present site of Monroe. The Monroe postoffice was established mainly through his influence, and he was appointed its first postmaster, which office he resigned shortly afterward. He remained at Monroe until about 1878, when he removed to

Marshall County, and was engaged in the practice of medicine there for six years. He then returned to Monroe, where he still resides, but is living retired from the active duties of life, having given up his practice on account of his health.

The doctor was married October 27, 1866, to Nancy J. Gilpen, who was born in Blue Creek Township, Adams County, Indiana, May 20, 1850, a daughter of Washington and Mary (Brokaw) Gilpen, natives of Ohio, the father born in Pennsylvania County, February 1, 1828, and the mother born in Belmont County in December, 1828. They were married in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in 1848, and in 1849 came to Adams County, settling in Blue Creek Township, where the mother died November 30, 1880. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are yet living. Six children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Rainier - Alice L., Willis B. (deceased), Mary A., Washington E., Lulu B. and Charles L. The doctor and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has served as trustee, and was also recording steward of the Monroe Circuit. He is a member of the Sam. Henry Post, No. 63, G.A.R., at Decatur.

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