

Rawlins family plays role in Monroe history

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had been shot, scalped and tomahawked. The incident had prompted the Rawlins men to join the U.S. Mounted Rangers under the command of Capt. James Biggers.

Jackson related that Joseph Rawlins had made a trip by flatboat to New Orleans. But despite the relative success of the family's farming venture in Lawrence County, they moved to neighboring Monroe County by 1816. It is a matter of record that in that year Roderic Rawlins bought parcels of land in Bloomington and Richland Townships.

Rawlins' association with David Maxwell in the rangers may have influenced him in his (Rawlins') choice of a place to settle his family. Perhaps Monroe County seemed safer. Whatever the reason, once moved, he took seriously his responsibility as a new member of the little Bloomington community. When the county was organized in 1818, Roderic became its first treasurer. He also contributed his building expertise in drawing up a plan for the first county jail.

The early disbursements of the county treasury indicate that Rawlins was no mere volunteer treasurer. Among the monies paid out

in 1819 were those of \$100, \$2, \$500 ("on jail") and \$100. He also claimed a "treasurer's percentage" of \$184.86.

Rawlins' name does not appear in the 1820 census of the county, an indication that he had died. A Rebecca Rawlins, 62, possibly his widow, is listed in the 1850 census in the home of Rebecca Browning, who was also born in Maryland. Other Rawlins residents of Bloomington Township were the family of James Rawlins, who had been born in Kentucky. *The 1856 Atlas of Monroe County* lists the Rawlinses in Washington Township on sections 34 and 35.