

Ralph Applewhite

Occupant Name: Ralph Applewhite

Location: **Section A**

Date of Birth: 1/19/1826

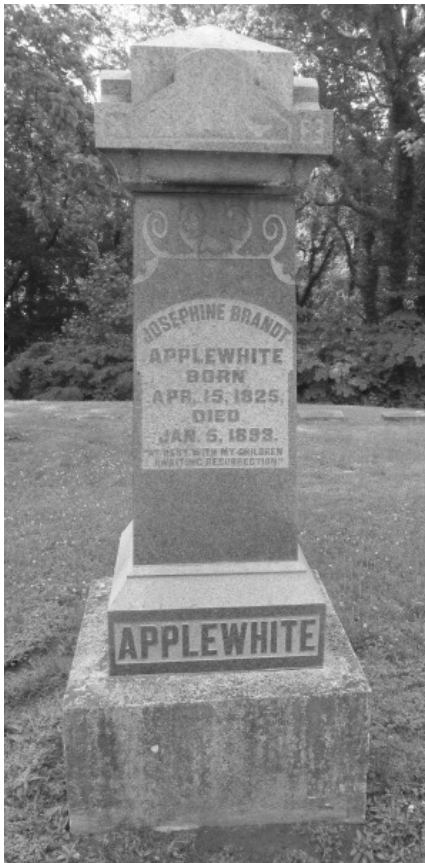
Date of Death: 11/5/1902

Date of Burial: 1902

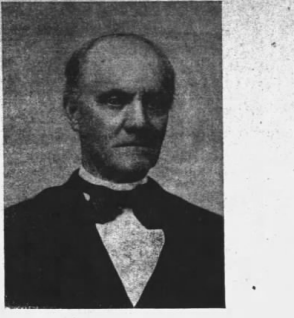
Veteran: Yes.-Capt. Co K.
67th Reg. Indiana Vol.

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:



A GOOD MAN HAS GONE.



JUDGE RALPH APPLEWHITE.

JUDGE RALPH APPLEWHITE, whose death was briefly mentioned in these columns last week, was born January 19, 1826, in Marion county, Miss., and was the fourth son of Rev. James and Mary Applewhite. In 1831 his father moved from Marion county to what is now Carroll county, Miss., where he was reared. He had four brothers—John R., who died in 1878, William, who died in 1876, Joseph A., who died in 1893, and Leonard, who died while yet a young man in 1841.

In 1844 he with his brother Joseph came north to attend college at Oxford, O., remaining there awhile then went to Hanover, Ind., where they attended the college for two years. He then returned home and began the study of law in the office of Judge Lewis Sanders, an eminent lawyer, of Natchez, Miss., where he remained until the fall of 1846, when he came to Louisville, Ky., and entered the Senior Class of the Louisville Law School, being graduated in March 1847, and was the first graduate of that institution.

After being graduated from the Law school he went to Hanover, Ind., and on March 15, 1847, he was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Brandt. Together they returned to Miss., settling at Greensborough, where he taught school and practiced law until 1853, when he moved with his family to Hanover, Ind., where he and his wife's brother, Henry Brandt, were engaged in the mercantile business until the fall of 1853, when he sold his interest to his partner, Mr. Brandt, and came to Brownstown seeking a location to practice his profession.

The winter of 1853-4 he taught school in the school house three miles northeast of this place, known as the Durand school, and some of his pupils are yet living in this community. In the spring of 1854 he moved his family (who had remained at Hanover) to Brownstown and resided here until the spring of 1869, when he removed to Seymour, remaining there about a year. His health failing him he moved to his farm in Owen township, where he remained about a year, then came back to Brownstown, where he resided until his death, except from 1894 to 1897, during which time he resided at Seymour.

He was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the counties of Jackson, Bartholomew, Jennings and Lawrence in 1860, in which position he served until the summer of 1862, when he resigned and entered the army as Captain of Company K, 67th Regiment Indiana Volunteers. It has been said that he was the only man in our state who resigned a position as Judge to accept a subordinate position in the army. In the spring of 1863 he was taken sick near Vicksburg, Miss., sent to the hospital at Memphis, Tenn., and after recovering sufficient to be able to travel resigned his commission and returned to his home at this place. He again entered the practice of law in partnership with Daniel H. Long, the father of Capt. B. E. Long, who afterwards became a member of the law firm.

He was also engaged in the newspaper business at one time, having established the Jackson County Union in October, 1864. But his increasing practice in the legal profession compelled him to dispose of the paper, which he did in 1869, to John L. Owens and Daniel H. Long, from whom it was purchased by Wm. Fryminger in 1881.

In 1867 he was elected Auditor of this county and re-elected in 1870 serving eight years until 1873, when he again began the practice of law, which he continued until he was prostrated with his last sickness during the last term of court. He was the father of ten children, three only growing to manhood and womanhood, Henry, now a resident of Owen township, James R. residing at this place, and associated with his father in the practice of law, and Bertie, who was the wife of Walter L. Benton and dying October 14, 1898.

His wife Josephine, died at this place January 6, 1903. On September 18, 1894, he was united in marriage to Nancy Mead, who with his two sons, Henry and James F., survive him.

He was a member of the Methodist church for over forty-one years, having united April 1, 1861. At the time of his death he was a member of Washington Lodge, No. 13, F. & A. M., having been made a Master Mason in Greensboro Lodge in Mississippi while residing there in the year 1849. He was a Master Mason for 33 years. He was also a member of Gordon Tanner Post No. 159, G. A. R. of this place. He was a member of the State and Jackson County Bar Associations, being the first President of the latter, declining a re-election at the last Annual Meeting on account of his failing health. He died at his home at this place surrounded by his wife and children, November 6, 1902, at 2 o'clock a. m., aged 76 years, 9 months and 17 days.

The funeral services were conducted at the Methodist Episcopal church Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock, Rev. C. C. Bonnell, assisted by Eld. H. A. Wingard and Rev. E. T. Smith, officiating, after which the remains were laid to rest in Patriot cemetery, under the auspices of the Masonic Order. The members of the Jackson County Bar Association and Gordon Tanner Post, No. 159, G. A. R. also attended in a body. Deceased probably enjoyed a wider acquaintance than any other man in Jackson county and the funeral was one of the largest ever held here. Many who came to pay their last tribute of respect were unable to get into the church, which was crowded to its utmost capacity.

Judge Applewhite was a true man in all that the word implies. Broad and liberal in his views, moral and upright in character, kind and gentle in disposition, polite and unassuming in his manners, a christian in spirit, word and deed, charitable to the needy, and ever ready to assist the deserving, are only a few of the virtues that made the world better for his having lived in it, and caused him to win the esteem, confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact. His death was not only a loss to his relatives and immediate friends but to the town and county in general. His was of the highest type of citizenship, and to the young men especially in his life a worthy example of emulation. He was an able jurist and was probably the oldest practicing attorney in the state, being three days older than the late Col. Stansifer, of Columbus, who it was said held this distinction at the time of his death. During his long and active life Judge Applewhite not only gained honor and prominence among men, but through it all he recognized the will of his Divine Master, lived a christian life, and gained a priceless inheritance in the better world. Language fails us when we endeavor to extol his virtues, yet the simple words "A good man has gone" expresses it all. May he rest in peace.

