

Joseph Rufus Monk, Private, Co. D, 17th AL Infantry, CSA

- 1846 Apr 17: Joseph Rufus Monk was born to parents John Samuel and Louisa Monk in Daviston, AL.
- 1851 Jan 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Tallapoosa County, AL showed a five year old Joseph Rufus Monk lived with his parents. His father was a farmer.
- 1860 Jun 14: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Coosa County, AL listed Joseph Rufus as a thirteen year old boy that lived on his father's farm.
- 1864 Apr: Joseph enlisted in Co. D, 17th AL Infantry at Resaca, GA. Joseph turned eighteen years old this month which is probably why he enlisted. Naturally, he joined the same regiment and same company that his father John Samuel Monk was in.
- Nov 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin. Monk and his regiment were in Maj. Gen. Ed Walthall's Division and moved across some of John McGavock's land as they attacked the US position on the southern side of town. They managed to push through creeks and brambles until they assaulted the US line but were unable to inflict much damage due to the strength of the defensive works. The 17th AL lost around two thirds of their remaining men at the Battle of Franklin. Joseph Rufus Monk survived this battle but his father John Samuel Monk was killed.
- Dec 15: Fought at the Battle of Nashville with the remnants of 17th AL Infantry and Army of Tennessee. Joseph Monk was captured during this fight.
- Dec 18: Sent to Louisville, KY as a prisoner of war.
- Dec 19: Received at Louisville, KY:
- Dec 20: Sent to Camp Douglas, IL.
- Dec 23: Received at Camp Douglas, IL.
- 1865 June 22: Released from Camp Douglas, IL after the surrender and end of the war.
- 1867 Sep 29: Married Sarah Berry in Alexander City, AL.
- 1870 Jul 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Coosa County, AL showed J R Monk worked as a farmer. He lived with his wife and two children.

- 1880 Jun 12: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Coosa County, AL listed Joseph Monk, his wife Sarah, and eight children. Joseph was listed as a farmer, his wife was listed as keeping house, and their oldest children helped on the farm.
- 1889 Monk joined the Primitive Baptist Church eventually becoming a minister.
- 1900 Jun 5: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Coosa County, AL showed Joseph R Monk resided with his wife Sarah and seven children. His wife has no occupation listed, but Joseph was noted as a farmer and his five eldest kids were listed as farm laborers. His two youngest children, both daughters, were both listed as, "at school."
- 1910 Apr 28: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Coosa County, AL listed Joseph R Monk Sr. was employed as a farmer and lived with his wife and some remaining children. Interestingly, the census also revealed the next household enumerated was Joseph R Monk Jr and his family. It seemed that Joseph's son had married and lived nearby.
- 1916 Jul: J. R. Monk's name appeared in a newspaper article about a freak lightning strike.



¹ *The Rockford Chronicle*, Rockford, Alabama, Friday 07 July 1916, pg. 4.

1920 Jan 30: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Coosa County, AL stated Joseph R Monk was seventy three years old and lived with his wife Sarah.

1924 Joseph Rufus Monk passed away in Coosa County, AL at seventy seven years old. He was buried in Bethel Cemetery in Equality, AL.

IN MEMORY OF ELDER J. R. MONK

On February 13th, the Angel of Death came to earth to call home the spirit of Elder J. R. Monk, a well-known and highly honored citizen of Coosa county; a minister of the Primitive Baptist Church.

Elder Monk was born April 17th, 1846, at Daviston, Alabama. He had merely reached young manhood when the war between the States began. He enlisted and bravely entered every struggle.

He was married to Sarah A. L. Berry, September 29th, 1867. To this union there were born twelve children, five boys and seven girls, three of which preceded him to the grave. Nine are still living together with his dear aged and afflicted companion.

The deceased has one sister and two brothers living. They are: Mrs. Susie Waldrop, who is in Florida for her health, and was unable to be with her brother during his illness, Mr. Willis Monk, of Texas, and Mr. John Monk, of Meridian, Miss.

The children who are left to mourn the loss are as follows: Robert Monk, of Cisco, Texas; Rufus Monk, of Sylacauga, Ala.; Edd Monk of Equality, Alabama; Mrs. Nanlon Bryant, of Eclectic, Ala.; Mrs. Mavie Adair, of Equality, Ala.; Mrs. Ellie Mott, of Equality, Ala.; Mrs. Sudie Lett, of Montgomery, Ala.; Mrs. Gladys Collier, and Mrs. Frankie Blake of Wetumpka, Route 1.

Besides the aged companion, brothers, sister and children, there are fifty-eight grand children and twenty four great grand children, and many other relatives left to mourn their loss of Elder Monk.

The deceased was 77 years, 9 months and 22 days of age at the time of his death. He was a member of the church at Bethel, of the Primitive faith and order. He united with the church in 1889.

Elder Monk was a man devoted to his family and church. Through his long illness he bore his sufferings with great patience and when the summons from above came, he seemed perfectly resigned to God's will. He was afflicted about three years.

² The Weekly Herald, Wetmpka, Alabama, Thursday 28 Feb 1924, pg. 7.