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Harmon, Chandler (1839 - 1881)

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Chan Harmon was born at Penobscot, Maine, August 4, 1839. He came, with his father Deacon Harmon, to Saint Anthony in 1850. In 1859 he came to Sauk Centre and took a claim which he worked until 1863.

Chan Harmon volunteered to serve in several extremely hazardous expeditions for the rescue of settlers within a radius of fifty miles, particularly to the north and west and south west of Sauk Centre, immediately upon the first alarm received here of the murderous outbreak of the Sioux Indians in 1862. At the first call for volunteers to enter the enemy's line to warn and as far as possible otherwise to shield the settlers in their flight to Sauk Centre where a stockade was in progress of erection, Mr. Harmon with four others including W. J. Whitefield, with two-two horse teams and wagons, started on this most hazardous expedition in so far as it was then possible to forecast its intanglements with a pitiless and alert foe. The more immediate prompting to the venture was the fact that Van Etten, of Grove Lake, having had timely warning of the Indian uprising from a fleeing neighbor, who drove his team, with family, to his door, and fearing to delay to catch his own oxen, had accepted, for himself and family, the tendered services of said neighbor and conveyance. In this way they had all reached the stockade at Sauk Centre. On the following morning, Mr. Van Etten, despite the pleadings of his family and earnest councilings of all the others there, had gone alone to recover his team and a portion of his household goods. He had not returned and the worst was feared. In going we took a circuitous line of march, first by Fairy Lake and the George Salmond and J. O. Hoffman places, up the valley of the Ashley River to Westport Lake. Here, we discovered, the Indians had already been and formed an encampment, and had not been gone long, as there were still red hot ashes in the small beds of their camp fires,

which were markedly different than the white man's building. We alertly and anxiously scanned the prairie and also the more hidden depths of the grove of timber for a lurking or fleeing Indian. As no signs of the immediate presence of friend or foe appeared, it was agreed to hasten on our way lest some settler be butchered but for our timely coming. We planned to go to the Lake Amelia settlement next, as one of our party J. Pettyjohn, had fled from his home there only a few days before, and wished to recover his furniture and food. His one-story house and stable were hidden by a small grove and climbing vines covering sides and roof. Everything was as he had left them, scattered helter-skelter on the ground in front of the house evidencing a panicky state of mind that had brought and left them there. Today we find the village of Villard on this site. A treeless and level prairie lay before us as we journeyed towards Grove Lake. When we arrived there it was instantly apparent the Indians had been there and wreaked their vengeance, mainly on inanimate things, except in the case of cattle, chickens and pigs. In the residence of Dean Stabler they had smashed windows and doors and to some extent the floors. In the field of corn they had smashed two tubs full of dishes and had destroyed and scattered all other house furnishings left behind by the terrified settler. The house broom they had thrown upon the roof.

We decided to sleep, in alternate watches, in the stable, because loop holes through which to watch and fire were more easily provided by knocking out the chinking between the logs. Before retiring we visited the home of Van Etten about a mile away on the lake shore, just within the fringe of a heavy timber. Here they seemed to have wreaked a very whirlwind of fury. A little way off the fiends had overtaken the fleeing Van Etten and brutally murdered him and left his body by the road side.

"D. Barnes said, "I will keep watch tonite, I'm too horrified to sleep, you may safely trust me," and he did for he would not awaken the relief who craved to share his vigil."

In 1863 Chan Harmon was employed in the Quartermaster Corp, United States Army until 1866 when he returned to his farm and also engaged in railroad building for several years. In 1865 he was married to Frances E. Reed, a native of New York State, and daughter of Lyman and Harriet Reed, pioneers of Paynesville, Minnesota. Five children were born to this union three of whom lived: William W.; Lulu M.; and Nellie who was the first school teacher at Sauk Centre.

In 1872 Chan Harmon engaged with Harmon Halmer and Company in the building of their flour mills and afterwards was manager of the concern.

Chan Harmon died in 1881.

Written by: W. J. Whitefield
Taken from: Sauk Centre Herald of 1881 & Dec.
12, 1912
Copied by: Dorothy Hansmann
Date: Nov. 22, 1936

Harmon, Chan

FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on June 28, 1860 by C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- Sauk Centre

Page 65

Chandler Harman

Age 21

Sex

Male

Occupation

Farmer

Born

Maine

Harmon, Chain

FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on July 3, 1860 by C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office Paynesville

Page No. 73

Lyman Reed	Age 52
Sex	Male
Occupation	Farmer
Born	Vermont
*****	*****
Harriett Reed	Age 43
Sex	Female
Born	New York
*****	*****
Francis E. Reed	Age 19
Sex	Female
Born	New York
*****	*****
Joseph Reed	Age 13
Sex	Male
Born	New York
*****	*****
Alvena Reed	Age 10
Sex	Female
Born	New York

Harmon, Chan

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE CHAN HARMON BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Baby Harmon	Dec. 13, 1871	Sauk Centre	Chandler Harmon	
2. Baby "	Feb. 6, 1873	" "	" "	
3. Baby "	Feb. 6, 1873	" "	" "	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Elanore Reed		A	31	13	
2. Elanore "		A	103	13	
3. Elanore "		A	103	14	

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK B. PAGE 46

Chandler Harmon and Frances E. Reed

Married at Paynesville November 5th, 1865

By: Rev. G. W. Bennett

Witnesses: Leman Reed and Mrs. Harriet Reed

Harmon, Frances Elenor (Reed)

File No. _____

Frances Elenor Reed was born in Lewis County, New York on May 3, 1841. When a young girl she moved to Wisconsin with her parents, and later to New Paynesville, this county. She taught the first school in Sauk Centre.

In November 1865, Frances Elenor Reed and Chandler Harmon were married and settled on a farm south of this city. They remained on the farm about four years. Five children were born to this union. In 1869 the family moved to Sauk Centre.

Frances (Reed) Harmon died at Sauk Centre on June 16, 1899 and is interred in Greenwood cemetery.

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Copied from: "The Avalanche"
June 22, 1899

Copied: April 28, 1938

Copied by: Dorothy Hansmann

Harmon, Chandler

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated June 28, 1860 By -- C. Grandemeyer

Post Office -- Sauk Centre

Page No. 65

Harmon Chandler

Age 21

Sex

Male

Occupation

Farmer

Born

Maine

HARMON, CHANDLER

File NO. B-501

Chandler, Harmon, miller, born in Penobscot county, Maine, August 4, 1839; came with his parents to Minnesota in 1850; settled on a farm near Sauk Centre in 1859; after 1872 was manager of large flouring mills there.

Copied from: Minnesota Biographies Page 301
Date Copied: March 4, 1937
By: Tresa Gruber