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Hendryx, Charles F. (1847 -)

Melba Peterson

Tresa Gruber

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HENDRYX, CHARLES F.

File No. B-541

Charles F. Hendryx was born in Cooperstown, New York on April 2, 1847. He attended the common schools there, the village seminary and then the Deer Hill Institute at Danbury, Connecticut.

Then he learned the printer's trade in the composing room of the Otsego Republican, of which his father, James I. Hendryx was the publisher.

In 1865 he entered the Hobart College at Geneva, New York, where he stayed until 1868. Then he entered Cornell College (now Cornell University) from which he graduated in 1869. He was a member of the first graduating class. He claimed to be the oldest alumnus of that first graduating class of eight.

After his graduation he returned to Otsego where he became a partner of his father under the firm name of James I. Hendryx and Son. They published the "Republican and Democrat." He worked on this until 1874 when his father sold the paper and moved to Minneapolis. Charles Hendryx also went to Minneapolis where his father purchased an interest in the "Tribune." Here Charles forsook the mechanical end of printing and took up editorial work. He was at various times reporter, city editor, night editor, editorial writer and paragrapher.

On September 6, 1876, Charles F. Hendryx married Fanny Gault Taylor of St. Paul who was the State Librarian for many years.

Charles Hendryx worked on the "Tribune" in Minneapolis until August 1, 1879, when he came to Sauk Centre and purchased the "Sauk Centre Herald" from Joseph H. and Sam Simonton.

Charles and Fanny (Taylor) Hendryx had three children: Anna, Mrs. P. L. Flinbough of Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania; Myra, Mrs. John C. Oakes; James B. Hendryx, born on December 9, 1880, of Traverse City, Michigan,

is an author of short stories and boys' adventure stories.

In 1903, they left Sauk Centre and went to Springfield, Ohio where Charles Hendryx was employed on the editorial staff of the Evening Gazette. In 1906, they moved to Chatanooga, Tennessee, where he was employed on the staff of the Morning Times. In 1908 they went to Cincinnati, Ohio where he was the editorial writer on the Morning American.

Charles Hendryx was a prominent member of the Episcopal Church. He had two missionary churches under his charge, preaching in one in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

He spent considerable time in extensive travel.

Fanny (Taylor) Hendryx died in 1930. Charles F. Hendryx died at the home of his son, James B., at Traverse City, Michigan, on January 19, 1935.

The following story, Captioned "Early Days of the Herald" was written by Mr. Hendryx and published in the Herald of November 4, 1915.

"While on the editorial staff of the Minneapolis Tribune, in 1879, I became acquainted with Captain A. Barto, then just retiring from the Office of Lieutenant Governor, and he suggested that I purchase the Herald, then owned by the Simonton Brothers."

In July, 1879, together with my wife, I made a preliminary trip to Sauk Centre, leaving Minneapolis in the early evening and arriving at our destination long after midnight, traveling over the old Saint Paul and Pacific railroad, which had just then been extended from Melrose to Alexandria. We met a number of the prominent early settlers, who assembled in knots to look us over, to decide whether they would welcome or lynch us, at least that is the way it seemed to us at that

time. However, we were so favorably impressed that we decided to draw in with them.

"In August, 1879, the first issue of the Herald came out under my management. It was a seven column folio -- four pages -- with patent outsides, printed in Milwaukee and carrying much more patent medicine advertising than local was printed on an old-fashioned hand press."

"It was soon changed to an all home print and a little later another column was added to each page. Two years later it was moved to Pendergast Hall and afterwards to a building located on Third street which I purchased from William Scheffies and fitted up for joint newspaper and Post Office purposes."

"In the early nineties a small cylinder press, worked by hand power, was purchased and the paper changed to the six column quarto--eight pages. Afterwards a larger press was purchased and a gasoline engine bought to furnish the motive power. This briefly sketches the physical history of the Herald from 1879 to 1903."

"When I began the publication of the Herald in 1879, Sauk Centre as I remember it had about 750 people; two flouring mills, not more than a half a mile of wooden sidewalk, three brick buildings including the tiny office of Esquire Carr, and its mercantile business was about evenly divided between Main and Third streets. There was but the one line of railroad with two daily trains (none on Sunday) no water works or electric lights, no street lights of any kind, no telephones, no park, a small steamboat on the lake which shortly afterwards went out of commission, four churches, one rather small schoolhouse and but one grain elevator."

"There were, including stores, general and hardware, drug stores, millinery, blacksmith and carpenter shops, and all kinds of professional men, about thirty business places and offices and of this number not more than half a dozen took advertising space. It was a modest galaxy that would blush to see their name in print, even in a business way. It was not until W. O. P. Hillsdale, W. S. Dean, Mel Blied, A. H. Pettit, Jacobi Brothers, Willis How, G. Hillerud, and a few of the later ones established themselves here that publicity was deemed essential to business. Even then in the fall of the year and at Christmastide, when every farmer had his pockets full of money and you couldn't have kept the crowds out of the stores with a machine gun, merchants would crowd the paper with big type ads, filling large space, but when business was dull and needed stimulating they were conspicuously out of evidence, but let a fake bankrupt stock or fire sale come to town, even in mid-summer and advertise liberally, as was frequently the case, local merchants would stand by with their hands in their pockets and see their customers dig up oodles of cash and go home loaded down with goods -- but enough of this lecturing."

"The policy of the Herald under my management differed little from other country papers; it aimed, primarily, to be loyal to home interests and I think I can justly say it was a leader in many movements for civic improvements. It strongly advocated the waterworks, bonds for an enlarged school building, and against pretty stiff opposition in certain quarters, pushed sidewalk extension; it was largely responsible for the extension of Third street eastward across the river and westward to Hoboken, of Main southward over the railroad tracks to the city limits and that was a fight to the finish.

It fought the stockyards from the residence part of the city, stood stiffly for the City Hall and new library buildings. It helped in the two railroad schemes, the L. F. and D. and the "Katy" branch, and after a strenuous fight lost out in the Duluth, Huron, and Denver and the "Soo" extension from Paynesville up through Spring Hill and Meire Grove. The Herald fought hard for county division which might have been accomplished if the "Soo" branch had been built; advocated the location of the Northern Insane Asylum, on the site now occupied by the Home School for Girls, and the extension of Main street by a bridge across the Narrows as a highway into southern Todd county."

"My career in Sauk Centre was not eventful in any marked degree. I made many friends, warm friends, most of whom have gone on before. My attachment of the little city which I saw emerge from swaddling clothes into knickerbackers is deep-seated and sincere. There I buried my parents, there my children were born, and there I spent my life's meridian.

"Joy to it and its very residents, 'may you all live long and prosper.'

Sincerely,

"Charles F. Hendryx"

Taken from: Sauk Centre Herald of January 24, 1935
Date Copied: December 4, 1936
Copied by: Melba Peterson

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE CHARLES F. HENDRYX BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. James B. Hendryx	Dec. 9, 1880	Sauk Centre	Charles F. Hendryx	
2. Anna H. Hendryx	July 6, 1883	Sauk Centre	Charles F. Hendryx	
3. Myra Hendryx	Nov. 2, 1884	Sauk Centre	Charles F. Hendryx	

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Fannie Hendryx		A	427	13	
2. Fannie Hendryx		A	581	19	
3. Fannie Hendryx		B	39	8	

HENDRYX, CHARLES F.

File No. B-542

Charles F. Hendryx, Journalist, born in Cooperstown, New York, April 22, 1847; was graduated at Cornell University, 1869; came to Minnesota in 1874; spent five years in connection with the Minneapolis Tribune; later settled in Sauk Centre, where he owned and edited the Sauk Centre Herald.

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Date copied: March 4, 1937
Copied by: Tresa Gruber

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