

St. Cloud State University

The Repository at St. Cloud State

WPA Biographic Summaries

University Archives

11-17-1937

Pendergast, Solomon (ca. 1833/1834 - 1910)

Melba Peterson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio>

Recommended Citation

Peterson, Melba, "Pendergast, Solomon (ca. 1833/1834 - 1910)" (1937). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 983.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/983>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at The Repository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in WPA Biographic Summaries by an authorized administrator of The Repository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact tdsteman@stcloudstate.edu.

Soloman Pendergast was born in Barnstad, New Hampshire, on November 15, 1833. He was a son of John and Nancy Pendergast. He had three brothers.

He was educated in the public schools of Barnstad. He also attended the Gilmanton Academy and the Guilford Academy at Meredith Bridge.

In 1856, with the protection of a gun and the friendship of a dog, he walked all the way to St. Paul, Minnesota, with a party of pioneers. He went from there to Hutchinson where he lived in that vicinity for two years. Most of his time was spent in hunting and trapping.

In 1859 he returned to Minneapolis and was married to Lucy Cornelia Chapman. She was born in Illinois, and was the daughter of Hiram and Caroline (Dewey) Chapman. Her father was a carpenter and builder.

In the spring of 1861 they came to Sauk Centre where they lived the remainder of their lives. Mr. Pendergast entered the mercantile business with Mr. Fish. Their store was located one-half mile east of town on the St. Cloud road. The stockade was built around the store. During the stockade days his store became a store, garrison, inn and nursery. In it were sheltered residents, the soldiers, the stage drivers, and travelers. Mrs. Pendergast ran the hotel in the stockade. Mr. Pendergast had the first store in Sauk Centre and also was the first post-master.

During the Indian troubles, he purchased the Fish interest and conducted his store until 1865, when he sold out and engaged in the mercantile business with Edward Oakford.

In the fire of March, 1870 his store burned. This store was rebuilt.

In 1877 Robert J. Wille bought the Oakford interest. Mr. Pendergast sold his interest. In 1880, together with Lucas Kells, he organized the bank of Sauk Centre. Mr. Pendergast became the President and held this office for about ten years. In 1889 he retired from active business.

In 1890 Mr. Kells bought his interest in this bank and Mr. Pendergast

gave his time and attention to his other interests.

Mr. Pendergast was a large holder of real estate. He owned a 1, 200 acre farm west of Sauk Centre which was one of the finest in the state. He also owned the brick block on Third street and a brick building on Main street. His home on Main street north of the bridge--one of the finest in the city--also belonged to him.

Mrs. Pendergast died in 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Pendergast had four daughters, the first three being born in the stockade. They are Mrs. Nellie LaFond, who was born December 14, 1861 was the first white child born in Sauk Centre; Mrs. Carrie Baldwin, born on May 26, 1863; Mrs. Maud Dewey, born December 20, 1864; and Mrs. Mabel Carr who was born on October 24, 1869.

Solomon Pendergast died on June 18, 1910 from blood poisoning and diabetes. Reverend F. H. Oehler officiated. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Mr. Pendergast owned various stores in the northwest, sometimes alone and sometimes with partners. He took an active interest in public movements.

Mr. Pendergast learned the shoe trade in St. Paul at Gotzian's place. After learning the trade he went all over the country making shoes for families. He sometimes made shoes for the whole family, receiving his board and room at their home until he had completed the shoes.

While conducting his store he traded a great deal with the Indians. They were very friendly and he became a great friend of the Indians as he helped many of them in their financial troubles. Mr. Pendergast's daughter, Mrs. Dewey, said that many times the Indians stayed in their home but they were never afraid of them. She also said that she thought the Indians had not had a fair deal. They were deprived of their squatt-

er's rights and that the white men took their land without paying for it. She said she had often asked her father why this was done and he had said that the white men felt that they could cultivate the land better and further the progress of the land, while the Indians were backward and slow in their progress. As Mr. Pendergast was a great hunter and trapper he sold a large number of furs to the people. In Mrs. Dewey's home she has a large glass case filled with birds and small animals which her father had killed and had mounted. In it she has a black squirrel which was her pet when she was a very small girl. She also has a wonderful picture of the stockade which has been enlarged. She had two of them. She kept one and presented the other to the Library. She was a chairman of the Gradatim Club at the time they erected the monument for the stockade. She was very interested in the erection of this monument.

Mr. Pendergast was a great friend of the people for his willingness to help others and his interest in the community.

Interviewed: Mrs. Maud (Pendergast) Dewey
Date: September 15, 1936
By: Melba Peterson

Publication Granted

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE SOLOMON PENDERGAST BIOGRAPHY

DEATH RECORD BOOK B. PAGE 214 LINE 2

Mrs. Lucy Cornelia Pendergast, Born in Egypt, Illinois, October 9, 1841

Daughter of Hiram Chapman and Caroline Dewy

Died March 29, 1907

Age 65 years 3 months and 20 days

DEATH RECORD BOOK C. PAGE 225 LINE 3

Salmon Pendergast Born in N. H., November 15, 1834

Son of John Pendergast, mother unknown

Died June 18th, 1910

Age 76 years 7 months

PENDERGAST, SOLOMON

Second interview to affirm or correct information in biography as compared to information as listed in the legal records in the Stearns County Court House.

CORRECTION:

Solomon Pendergast was born on November 15, 1834, as listed in the legal records.

CORRECTION:

Lucy (Chapman) Pendergast was born in Egypt, Illinois, on October 9, 1841. She was married to Solomon Pendergast on July 5, 1860.

Reinterviewed: Mrs. Maud (Pendergast) Dewey
Date: November, 17, 1937
By: Melba Peterson

PENDERGAST, SOLOMON

File No. B-1021

Solomon Pendergast, merchant and banker, born in Barnstead, New Hampshire, November 15, 1833; came to Minnesota in 1856; settled in Sauk Centre in 1861; engaged in mercantile business, and in 1881 established a bank in Sauk Centre.

Copied from: Minnesota Biographies Page 587
Date Copied: March 22, 1937
Copied by: Tresa Gruber

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE SOLOMON PENDERGAST BIOGRAPHY

DEATH RECORD BOOK B. PAGE 214 LINE 2

Mrs. Lucy Cornelia Pendergast, Born in Egypt, Illinois, October 9, 1841

Daughter of Hiram Chapman and Caroline Dewy

Died March 29, 1907

Age 65 years 3 months and 20 days

DEATH RECORD BOOK C. PAGE 225 LINE 3

Salmon Pendergast, Born in N. H., November 15, 1834

Son of John Pendergast, mother. unknown

Died June 18th, 1910

Age 76 years 7 months

PENDERGAST, SOLOMON

Second interview to affirm or correct information in biography as compared to information as listed in the legal records in the Stearns County Court House.

CORRECTION:

Solomon Pendergast was born on November 15, 1834, as listed in the legal records.

CORRECTION:

Lucy (Chapman) Pendergast was born in Egypt, Illinois, on October 9, 1841. She was married to Solmon Pendergast on July 5, 1860.

Reinterviewed: Mrs. Maud (Pendergast) Dewey
Date: November 17, 1937
By: Melba Peterson