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Simonton, Joseph H. (1840 - 1920)

Melba Peterson

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Joseph Simonton was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, on November 15, 1840. He was the seventh son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Baxter) Simonton.

In 1847, he went with his parents to Wills county, Illinois. In 1856, they went to Wilmington, Illinois.

In 1857, Joseph Simonton came to Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. He was a journeyman printer. He began to learn the art preservative in the office of the Sauk Rapids "New Era," successor of the "Frontiersman," the second newspaper established in Minnesota in 1857.

In 1859, he came to Saint Cloud and became one of the proprietors of the "Saint Cloud Times."

In 1862, he returned to Wilmington, Illinois, where he stayed eighteen months.

In 1863, he returned to Minnesota, and with his brother, Sam Simonton, he established the "Saint Cloud Times." He sold this interest and found employment on the Saint Paul "Pioneer" and here he remained until May of 1867.

Mr. Simonton then came to Sauk Centre where he bought a small printing outfit from the "Sauk Valley News." He established the "Herald" and issued the first number on June 6, 1867. It was the most northwesterly newspaper published between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, except a small sheet printed at Fort Gary, which is now Winnipeg, Canada. After a short time, the "Herald" was in the front rank with the leading newspapers of the Northwest.

Mr. Simonton and Sam (his brother) built a one and one-half story building. They had their printing office and telegraph office on one side. Their mother, who had come from Saint Cloud, was keeping house in the west part and upstairs. Sam Simonton was the Post Master and

and telegraph operator.

On April 18, 1870, Joseph Simonton married Miss Jennie Stalber, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Stabler. Mr. Stabler was one of the early prominent business men. Jennie (Stabler) Simonton was born April 18, 1846, in Wood-House Leeds, England. After their marriage they lived in the upstairs over the printing and telegraph office.

Their first son, William Adair, was born August 2, 1871. In 1876, Mr. Simonton bought some lots and built a home. Then their son, Alfred, was born but died on November 29, at the age of two and a half.

On February 13, 1877, their son Benjamin was born. Frank was born on March 15, 1881.

In the summer of 1881, Mr. Simonton and his family rented their home in Sauk Centre and went to a farm one and one-half miles from town. Here they lived for three months. They then came back to town but the following spring they moved back to the farm and stayed for five years. Because of ill health Mr. Simonton had sold the "Sauk Centre Herald" in 1879 to Mr. Charles F. Hendryx and bought the farm. Mildred Elizabeth was born on the farm in July, 1883.

Simontons moved to town in 1888. Mr. Simonton opened a grocery store on Third and Oak Streets. Later Mr. Charles Bennett became his partner. In September, 1904, he sold out to Vern Burgess and James McCracken.

Mr. Simonton spent his entire married life in Sauk Centre. He was a charter member of the Star in West Lodge A. F. and A. M. He was a charter member of Naomi Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

Joseph H. Simonton died July 19, 1920. He was buried in Oakland Cemetery.

Interviewed: Mr. & Mrs. Ben Simonton
Date: September 25, 1936
By: Melba Peterson

Publication Granted

FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated on July 21, 1860 by -- C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- St. Cloud

Page No. **111**

Joseph Simonton

Age 21

Sex

Male

Born

Pennsylvania

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOSEPH H. SIMONTON BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. William A. Simonton	Aug. 2, 1871	Sauk Centre	Joseph H. Simonton	
2. Alfred L. Simonton	May 12, 1873	" "	" "	"
3. Benjamin Simonton	Feb. 13, 1876	" "	" "	"
4. Baby Simonton	Mar. 15, 1881	" "	" "	"
5. C. Simonton	July 25, 1883	" "	" "	"

<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Mary Jane		A	49	24	
2. Mary		A	127	20	
3. Jennie		A	349	3	
4. Jennie		A	473	31	
5. Jennie		A	579	31	Female

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK C. PAGE 429

Joseph H. Simonton and Jennie M. Stabler

Married at Sauk Centre, April 18, 1870

By: Rev. Geo Stewart

Witnesses: C. Tuttle

DEATH RECORD BOOK A. PAGE 39 LINE 1

Alfred Simonton Died November 29, 1875

Son of Joseph H. and Jennie Simonton

Age 2 years 6 months and 19 days

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FORTHE JOSEPH H. SIMONTON BIOGRAPHY(CON'T)

DEATH RECORD BOOK M. PAGE 13 LINE 347

Joseph Hamilton Simonitén Born in Pennsylvania November 15, 1840

Son of Thomas Simonton and Elizabeth Baxter

Died July 19, 1920

Age 79 years 8 months and 4 days

SIMONTON, JOSEPH H.

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

CORRECTION:

The birth of Benjamin Simonton, February 13, 1876, is correct as listed in the legal records.

CORRECTION:

The birth of Alfred Simonton, May 12, 1873, is correct as stated in the legal records.

AFFIRMED:

The name Mildred Elizabeth Simonton is correct as stated in the biography.

Re-interviewed: Mrs. Benjamin Simonton
Date: October 22, 1937
By: Melba Peterson