

## CHARLES HARMON

*[Further information on Old Peter Harmon's Family may be found in The Greene County Pioneer, Volume 28 Number 1.]*

Charles Harmon was the son of 'old' Peter Harmon and his Cherokee wife, Margaret Chuly. It is said Peter and Margaret had 13 children. Peter had been born in the Rhineland in January 1733, and at the age of nine months, sailed to America with his parents, Jacob and Catherine 'Harman', settling in Rockingham County, Virginia.

'Old' Peter 'Harmon' and his large family were in Bedford County, Virginia, at the time of the Revolutionary War, living on the North Fork of the Otter River. In 1791, 'old' Peter bought 150 acres of land in Greene County, TN on Roaring Fork from Benjamin Goodin. 'Old' Peter died about 1805. Where he is buried has been lost to time. Peter Harmon left many namesakes over multiple generations in Greene County.

Charles Harmon was mustered into service in Petersburg, Virginia, on April 10, 1779. He enlisted as a regular soldier for a term of 18 months and served in the Fifth Regiment Virginia Line. In the Spring of 1780, Charles was in the battle at Hanging Rock, South Carolina. He was discharged in October 1780. Many years later when Charles applied for a Pension he states:

"His discharge papers were placed carefully in his waistcoat pocket, and arriving home tired after his 150 mile journey, his sisters washed his clothes with the discharge papers still in the pocket, which were completely ruined."

Four months after his discharge, Charles volunteered again, this time to be substituted in place of Jonathan Landers, who had been drafted. His Regiment marched toward Portsmouth Fort, then in possession of the British. Charles and other soldiers took two gun boats, killing one British man and taking ten others prisoner. The prisoners were exchanged a day or two later for some American prisoners. Charles was discharged this time in April 1781 and returned home, again losing his discharge papers!

Charles married September 23, 1785 in Bedford County, Virginia, to Elizabeth Neal. By 1787, they had moved to the Cherokee lands of East Tennessee. Charles great grandson recalled:

"Charles lived among the Eastern Cherokees and acted as a peacemaker between the white people and the Indians."

It was passed down through the generations that Charles spent half his time among the Indians, and the other half amongst the white settlement.

Another descendant states:

"An affidavit was made that Charles Harmon was called Charley Gray Horse. He had been the leader of a band of Indians, and that a song was composed about him which they sang."

Another, descendant relayed Charles was called, "Mag, the Gray Horse."

Charles was in Greene County by 1791, where he had an 'encounter' with the Courts for Assault and Battery. He was also signed to road work road from Babbs Mill to Zachariah Casteel's place.

By 1808, Charles lived in Wayne County, Kentucky, but was back in Tennessee by 1818, living in Overton County where he was a gunsmith. Five years later, Charles was back in Kentucky, this time living in Todd County, only to return to Overton County, Tennessee by 1825.

Charles applied for Pension in Overton County and was granted \$70 a year to be effective March 4, 1831. He would not remain long in Tennessee. In Wayne County, Kentucky, on December 13, 1833, "Charley Gray Horse"/"Mag the Gray Horse", aka Charles Harmon, remarried to Piercy Flowers.

Charles Harmon, died in Overton County, Tennessee, on May 7, 1847 at the age of eighty-five years. When the Act of 1855 was passed, Charles' widow, Piercy Flowers Harmon, applied for and received 160 acres of bounty land for her husband's Revolutionary War service. Piercy sold the land warrant the following year. This land is now part of St. Peters, Minnesota.

Charles/"Mag the Gray Horse", walked between two worlds - one white American and one Native American, never remaining long in either. It would seem he could not find a stable place that suited him for long.

Later generations would apply for admission to the Rolls of Eastern Band of Cherokees. One application states:

"John D. White who made oath that he personally knew Charles Harmon Deceased, that he was the great-grandfather of Andrew Jackson Belyeu, and that Charles Harmon was reported to be one-half Cherokee Indian and I always understood him to be a Cherokee Indian.

I was raised among the Cherokee Indians in Monroe County Tennessee and the said Charles Harmon had all the characteristics [characteristics] of that tribe of Indians.

I have in my possession now a Tommyhawk that Charles Harmon gave me when I was a child. I am now eighty years old.

I was born in Monroe County, Tennessee, the 17th day of November 1826. Charles Harmon died in my neighborhood in Overton County Tennessee somewhere between 1835 and 1840.

John White, subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of August 1907."