

Green Chambers

From Slavery to Freedom in Anoka County



Gravesite of Greenberry Chambers in St. Paul's Oakland Cemetery. The marker bears his military assignment – “Private, Company ‘H’, 115th Division, United States Colored Troops” and his date of death.

That since leaving the service this applicant has resided in the town of Blaine in the State of Minn, and his occupation has been that of a farmer.

That prior to his entry into the service above named he was a man of good, sound physical health, being when enrolled a farmer, a slave that he is now three-fourths disabled from obtaining his subsistence by manual labor by reason of his injuries, above described, received in the service of the United States; and he therefore makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the invalid pension-roll of the United States.

He hereby appoints HORATIO P. VAN CLEYE, Adjutant General of Minnesota, or his successor in office, of St. Paul, State of Minnesota, his true and lawful attorney to prosecute his claim. That he has never received or applied for a pension. That his Post Office Address is St Paul 310 E. 7th Street County of Ramsay, State of Minn.

Claimant's signature: Green Chambers (marked with an 'X')

Attest: Ed Kane

Excerpt from request Green Chambers made in 1882 for a military pension. This document shows his residency in Blaine Township and a mark representing his signature on the declaration. Using an “X” for a signature (in box) would indicate that he was illiterate.

Poll List Annual Election
Held on the 8th Nov 1881

No	Name	No	Name
1	Green Chambers		
2	Green Chambers Jr.		
3	Barney St.		
4	Chatham St.		

Poll List for Annual Election of November 8, 1881. Green Chambers and his son, Green Jr., show up as #1 and #2 on the alphabetical roster.

Green Chambers died of “old age” at the age of 85, living at 890 Juno Street in St. Paul.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.
ST. PAUL, MINN.

Name Green Chambers
Male, Married, age 85 years
Where Born (nativity) Kentucky 1898
White, Colored, Mixed Race.
Date of Death, day 16 month 7 year 98
Cause of Death Old age
Place of Death (street) 890 Juno
Parentage (nationality) Colored
Single, Married, Widowed.
Occupation Farmer
I hereby certify that I attended the person above named, and that he died on the above mentioned date.
(OVER) Wm. Wood M. D.

Headquarters Kentucky Volunteers,
Adjutant-General's Office,
Frankfort, Sept 20th, 1866.

I hereby certify, that it appears from the U. S. Muster-roll on file in this Office, that Green Chambers was enlisted on the 20th day of September, 1864, at Barling Green Ky, by A. G. Holser and mustered into the U. S. service on the 30th day of September, 1864, at Barling Green Ky, by Capt A. G. Holser to serve three years. Said Green Chambers is described as follows: 43 yrs age, black eyes, black hair, black complexion, 5 ft 6 in height; It further appears from said rolls that he owed service to F. Chambers and is credited to Barron Co Ky He was assigned to Co H 115th USC Infantry

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed my Official Seal, this 20th day of Sept, 1866.
Ed Lindsey
Adjutant General of Kentucky.

Certification of enlistment in the Union Army. This shows that he was owned by Frank Chambers, who was reimbursed by the US Army for Green's service.

CHAMBERS TIMELINE	
1813	Born a slave in Barron County, Kentucky
1851	Married wife Charlotte (Lottie) Simmons
1855	First of 5 children born <i>Sarah – ca. 1855, George – ca. 1857, Green Jr. – ca. 1862</i> <i>Names and fates of other children are unknown</i>
1864 (Sept)	Enlisted as Private with Union Army – Munfordville, KY
1865 (July)	Discharged from Union Army after injury, as a free man
1865 (Sept)	Arrived in St. Paul via Steamboat
1865	First permanent resident in Blaine Township
1869	Purchased 160 acre farm – SE ¼ of Section 24
1875 (Oct)	Farm foreclosed by Sheriff – \$677.70 owed
1875	Relocated to undetermined location in Blaine Township
1880	Owned 18 acres of tilled land, 80 acres of woodland
1883	Surgery for tumor removal
1884	Moved to Wabasha Street in St. Paul
1884 (Dec)	Lottie dies of pneumonia
1890	Listed in City Directory as Railroad Porter – 890 Juno St
1898 (July)	Died of “old age” on July 16 Buried at Oakland Cemetery – in “African Section”

The Blaine Historical Society is deeply indebted to Stephen Lee, for his knowledge, as well as his willingness to share documents and the products of his extensive research of the history of Blaine Township.

Blaine Historical Society

www.blainehistory.org

