

## CHANDLER JULIUS "C J" MOULTON

Born in East Randolph, VT on December 26, 1839, Chandler Moulton came to Lucasville at age eight. He was the youngest of a family group consisting of his grandmother, Sarah Ainsworth Belknap, his mother and father Norman and Mary (Belknap) Moulton, his siblings Daniel, age 13 and Sarah age 12, and his uncle Giles. The family came to Lucasville to join C.J.'s other uncle, Dr Daniel Belknap who had come six years earlier to establish a medical practice. The group came by way of the Erie Canal across New York then the Ohio-Erie Canal through Ohio. Chandler was one of only three survivors of this family over the next two years as his grandmother, father, both uncles and his brother died.

C.J. attended the township schools and attended two years at Ohio Wesleyan College. The C.J. Moulton company, a general mercantile store, was opened in 1867. The company originally operated in a building on Lot 21 next to the alley (presently SOMC LIFE Center) In 1894, a newer frame building was built to the north of the alley. His home was then located on the original store site.

On September 16, 1875, Chandler married Mary Celia Smith of West Union, Ohio. They had six children: Frank (1877-1947) who became a lawyer in Portsmouth; Arthur (1878-1955) partner and successor to the business and longtime fair board member; Mabel (1879-1970) who never married and cared for her sister's children; Jennie (1882-1970) became the wife of baseball legend Branch Rickey; John (1883-1980) local farmer and worked for his father; and Earl (1888-1964) local farmer, school board and fair board member.

C.J.'s success and integrity in business and as a farmer made him well known, much respected and greatly loved by the community. He was known for his wise advice and care for those in need.

Chan was a staunch Republican. He served as chairman of the county Republican committee and was a member of the central committee for many years. In 1900 he was elected to the state general assembly and reelected in 1902. While serving he was on the Agriculture Committee and chaired the Committee on Public Works.

He was a Mason and member of the Knight Templar. He was among a group of local citizens who visited the Panama Canal as it neared completion.

Evans in his 1903 book said that "He had no sharp corners and is liked by all his neighbors. He takes everything easy and does not worry about anything. Job could have taken lessons of him and improved his book."

Chandler J Mouton died October 4, 1917, in Lucasville. His obituary in the Portsmouth Times stated: "His was a life of earnest endeavors, simplicity, and good fellowship. ...He was always ready and right willing to entertain his friends, to assist the needy and to lend his hand to the comrade that needed a friend. He was a merchant to the community of Lucasville and at the same time a confidant and advisor to his neighbors. His store was a gathering place where everyone was assured kind treatment."

He is buried in the Lucasville Cemetery.