

## **Allen Cameron**

**June 11, 1838 – 2/23/1917**

**Plot 26 Lot 16**

Allen Cameron was a stagecoach driver, he ran the Luzerne Stage from 1888 until 1908 and the Spiers Falls stage from 1903 to 1910. It was the easiest form of transportation for the city dwellers of Glens Falls.

He would leave Glens Falls every morning (except Sunday) from Monument Square at 8 AM and arrive in Luzerne at 11 AM. He charged 75 cents one way and \$1.25 round trip to Luzerne. The return trip wouldn't begin until 2:30PM. He would take care of his horses, have a little lunch and talk to people on the street in hopes of filling up the coach for the ride home.

The plank road was just that, a dirt road covered with planks. It was mighty bumpy. Plank roads were one of the first solutions to muddy rutted dirt roads. To pay for the construction of these improved roads private individuals, corporations or municipalities would finance construction and then operate the plank road as a toll road. People entering or leaving the road would enter via a tollhouse. The toll keeper lived nearby for convenience sake.

The stage ran 13 miles to Lake Luzerne. He would enter the town gate at Lincoln Avenue and then another at French Mountain. He had to pay 24 cents to travel between Glens Falls and Lake George. He would then enter the turnpike to Lake Luzerne, the turnpike was a gravel road and usually full of ruts.

The summer was usually a very busy time, The Vanderbilt's, Pullmans and the rich liked the quiet solitude of Lake Luzerne. It was often that some of the Glens Falls inhabitants would want to go over for lunch at the Wayside Inn and look at the ways of the rich.

Allen Cameron was married to Emily Everest and they lived at 81 West Street, near the Glens Falls village center. Emily would have dinner waiting for Allen when he returned from his route and they would talk about the happenings of the day and the neighborhood. Emily died on May 13, 1897 she was 54, Allen's junior by 5 years.

Allen kept the Lake Luzerne line and in 1903 added a Spier Falls Stage Line. This caused him to hire one other driver. At 65 Allen would often take the Spier Falls route. Its cost was 50 cents and it was shorter which saved him wear and tear.

Allen sold his business to Glen Norton in 1909 and he could only keep it running for another year. The onset of the horseless carriage made his job unnecessary.

Allen Cameron lived on another 20 years and joined Emily on February 23, 1917, he was 78 years old. On his gravestone it says "Gone Home" he rode out of this live driving his own chariot, but it looked much like his old stagecoach.

Prepared by Mrs. Kyle M. Graves from theatrical script written by William Woodward for the Chapman Historical Museum fall Glens Falls Cemetery tour in 2004.

Questions and comments should be directed to the Glens Falls City Historian at: City Hall 42 Ridge St. Glens Falls, NY [historian@cityofglensfalls.com](mailto:historian@cityofglensfalls.com) 518-761-3871.