

## **Charles Willis Cool**

**8/19/1858 to 9/24/1932**

### **Cool Plot 11, Lot 34**

Charles W. Cool was born on 8/19/1858 in Glens Falls to Joseph B and Mary (Griffing) Cool and died on 9/24/1932 in Glens Falls. He married Mary Mott who was born on 11/10/1860 and died on 12/12/1951 in Glens Falls. Mary was the daughter of Zeblon and Harriet (Gilbert) Mott.

The Cool family was of Dutch origin with Charles' ancestors arriving in the Americas in 1633. Charles attended the Glens Falls Academy and Greylock Academy in Williamstown, Mass. He worked as a clerk in his father's lime business, in a private bank and in the Rockwell Hotel. Charles entered the insurance business in 1879, when he purchased the Hartford Insurance Agency which he renamed the Cool Insuring Agency. A name the Agency still proudly uses.

Charles and Mary (who became known as May) had three children. The eldest, J. Gilbert, worked with his father in the family insurance business until his untimely death at the age of 40 in 1922. Their middle child, a daughter, Frances, died at the age of four in 1890. The youngest, Harold, also worked in the insurance business in Connecticut. Sadly, in 1914 he died in a car accident at the age of 21

In addition to working in the insurance agency, Charles was an active participant in local politics. A member of the Republican Party, he served as Village of Glens Falls President and as an avid supporter of the movement to establish Glens Falls as a city. He was a member of the committee of ten citizens who drafted a city charter. The charter was approved by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Hughes, a Glens Falls native, in 1908. Charles served as the first Mayor of the City of Glens Falls in 1908 and was elected once again to serve as mayor in 1922.

Charles Cool also founded the Union Telephone Company, was a director of the First National Bank, the Empire Theater and the Glens Falls Land and Improvement Company. A devoted community servant, Charles also served as a fireman with the Finch Hook and Ladder Company, a member of the vestry of the Church of the Messiah, as a Mason and was a member of the Elks.

On September 24, 1932, Charles died from complications following a foot injury he had incurred the previous January. With no children to carry on the family business, the insurance business was sold to Hubert C. Brown who continued its operations in the same location with the same personnel and the same name. As such, the Cool Insuring Agency exists to this day. His devoted wife, Mary, lived for another 19 years, dying in her beloved family home at 50 Warren Street in 1951 at the age of 91.

Prepared Evelyn Donahue from a theatrical script written by William Woodward for the Chapman Historical Museums fall Glens Falls Cemetery tour in 2008.

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.



**Charles W. Cool and the Cool family grave markers**