

James Huyler White

June 28, 1836 – July 2, 1916

Plot 1 Lot 39

James Huyler White was born in 1836 in Greenfield, Saratoga County and moved between Glens Falls and Lake George at the age of 14. His father was the proprietor of the Half Way House on the Plank Road exactly mid way between the villages.

At age 20 James was apprenticed to a carriage maker to learn the trade. He found that he was suited for the business and was able to make enough money to take a wife. When James met Edward Joubert, a fellow worker at the carriage business, he was introduced to Joubert's sister-in-law, Susan. They were engaged and married in 1861.

The White's resided at 10 Jay Street, unfortunately they lost two children at a very young age. Their son James Beecher was born in 1887 and their daughter Charlotte was born 11 years later.

James and his friend Edward Joubert grew tired of using their minds and talents to benefit someone else. When he finished his apprenticeship in 1864, they formed their own company, Joubert and White Carriage and Sleigh Makers. They opened in a building at 33 and 35 Warren Street with but \$50.00 of borrowed capital. They had that building moved down Warren Street to the corner of Jay Street.

They worked slowly, making quality buckboards and carriages. They hired a staff and perfected the comfort level of the carriage. In 1880 they patented the Glens Falls Buckboard. The suspension was a unique, side spring system supplemented with boards one inch by six inches running from axle to axle giving a very soft ride. By 1897 they were able to build a new building four stories high with 50' frontage and 150' deep at 45 - 47 Warren Street. They produced 45 types of carriages holding from two to eight passengers. Their carriages were very expensive ranging from \$500.00 to \$1000.00 each while the average mail order buggy was \$50.00 to \$75.00.

They were visited each summer by the rich and famous. Patrons would leave the great spa and races in Saratoga Springs and venture up to look and buy the latest models. In one month they would see the likes of the Tiffany, Rockefeller, Astor, Carnegie and Vanderbilt families and foreign dignitaries and of course the rich and famous from Lake George. They continued to make buggies right through 1916.

James grew old in much grief. His daughter Charlotte had started a promising life. She studied vocal and instrumental music in Paris, France and after her return she had married local merchant Sterling Higley. She died in 1908 at age 36. Son, Beecher had studied Homeopathic medicine in New York City, and was Superintendent of Public Documents in Albany for two years, but returned to work the family business in 1897. Before the business could be turned over to him, Beecher died in 1911.

“I scarcely believe even in ages to come that this noble race, the horse, will be wholly outdone by any contraption of man’s ingenuity; but while autos and motors have a legitimate claim horses and carriages will be used just the same as before the death dealing devices were thought of. There is room, room for both in this rich land, and until we note a decline in demand for buckboards of superior merit, we shall turn them out with no fear of a rout by the grim-visaged gasoline spouters.” James White

Prepared by Mrs. Kyle Graves from a theatrical script written by William Woodward for the Chapman Historical Museums 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 518-761-3871.



**Susan and James Huyler White’s grave stones in the Bay St. Cemetery.
Taken by Wayne Wright, GF City Historian**