

W. Irving Griffing

1/24/1860 – 1/11/1941

Plot 24 Lot 1

W. Irving Griffing was born in Athol, Town of Thurman, NY on January 24, 1860 to Myron and Angeline (Aldrich) Griffing and died at his Glen Street Home on January 11, 1941. He was married to Ella Church, who lived eight years longer than he did. They had no children.

W. Irving began his education with his mother teaching him to read and a few years in the Village of Warrensburg schools. He developed a love for reading while in school. His early teens were spent working on farms in southern Washington County. This is where he learned how to handle and respect the animals, especially the horses, which he enjoyed racing a great deal. In later life he had a fine stable of trotting and pacer horses which he loved to race. He loved the sport but was not much of a gambler.

W. Irving came to Glens Falls at the age of fifth teen in 1875. His first job in the Village was a stage coach driver between Glens Falls and Fort Edward. He went on to open a business that dealt in fine carriages, wagons and sporting goods. This was near the site of the Farmer's Sheds that were demolished around 1940. He purchased the McGregor property at the top of Glen Street Hill and built the building currently owned by J. E. Sawyers. He sold the same type of horse related items as in the previous location and also operated a livery stable in the basement of the building. Morgan B. Leland was his partner for many years.

The McGregor property or McGregor Park was a large parcel of land where he built several commercial buildings including the Post Building at the corner of Glen and Park Streets. This structure is also still standing. In 1913 when he retired from business, he was one of the largest real estate brokers in the Glens Falls area.

In the 1890's, he began his political career as a member of the Village Board and served proudly on the Committee that oversaw the construction of Village Hall, currently known as City Hall, at 42 Ridge Street and was a member of the board when the Village was incorporated into a City. He went on to become the Mayor of the City four times serving from 1912 - 1916, 1920 - 1922 and 1933 - 1935. The City saw its largest growth during that time period, with all kinds of projects for the Mayor to be involved in. When not serving as Mayor, he was director of the Census and the Glens Falls Trust Company. He was also a member of the Masons and the Elks.

When total retirement came, he and his wife were regular visitors to Florida for the winter months. They traveled to Scotland many times as well. Throughout his life, he was well known

for the quality of his horses and the work that he was able to accomplish for the betterment of his community.

On January 11, 1941, W. Irving Griffing died at the couple's home, which is now 508 Glen Street, just north of Lincoln Avenue in Glens Falls. Funeral services were held at the residence with Rev Charles C. Noble, Dean of Chapel at Syracuse University providing the eulogy.

Prepared by Wayne Wright, GF City Historian, from a theatrical script written by William Woodward for the Chapman Historical Museums fall Glens Falls Cemetery tour in 2002.

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.



The Griffing Family Mausoleum