

[White, Joel Green]

JOEL GREEN WHITE

Joel Green White, Cooperstown's oldest citizen and the last member of L. C. Turner Post, G.A.R., to answer the final muster, passed away at 8:30 o'clock Wednesday night at his home on Nelson avenue at the age of ninety-five years, five months and twenty-four days. His final illness extended over a period of about a month.

Mr. White was the only son of Mortimer and Arminda (Averell) White and was born at Springfield Center March 14, 1843. When he was about five years old the family moved to Addison and his home was in that place until he was eleven. Upon the death of his mother he returned with his father to Springfield. The father's death occurred in 1855, and the son, then a lad of twelve, was left to the care of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Almond White.

Mr. White attended the district school in Springfield and at an early age showed much promise as a musician. He became a fine cornetist and at the age of eighteen enlisted as a member of the band of the 66th Regiment, New York Volunteers, in the Civil War.

He was stationed with the regiment on the James river, Virginia, until his honorable discharge August 9, 1862, under a special Act of Congress approved July 17, 1863, dismissing from the service most of the musicians whose mission it had been to bolster up the courage of the troops.

Returning to his home in Springfield, Mr. White took up the trade of harness maker with Hiram Nash. After serving his apprenticeship, he accepted the management of a harness shop in Cherry Valley. During his work at Cherry Valley, Mr. White made the seven-mile trip once a week between Springfield and that village on foot, leaving Monday and returning Saturday. He moved to Cooperstown in 1871, and this village had been his home for the last sixty-seven years. He opened his first harness shop here in the location of the present Schneider's bakery and personally filled special orders for prominent Cooperstonians. He sold his business in 1914 to accept employment in the harness shop of the Clark Estate, where he continued to work until December 4, 1936, when he retired at the age of ninety-three.

Three months after his return from the war, Mr. White married Miss Louise E. Hudson of Springfield, who was his devoted companion for fifty-five years until her death in 1917. His only daughter, Mrs. Lena May Quaif, and granddaughter, Mary Louise Quaif, were fatally injured in an automobile accident in 1931, and [on] November 1, 1934, another telling break in the family chain was the passing of his son-in-law, Fred L. Quaif, a prominent Cooperstown business man. For the past several years, Mrs. Emma Ostrander Quaif [widow of Fred L. Quaif] had devotedly cared for Mr. White.

[White, Joel Green]

Mr. White was active until recent months and was an ardent movie and radio fan, taking keen enjoyment in musical programs. The American Legion post presented him with a birthday gift each year. He was a man of genial personality and possessed a great fund of reminiscences which he delighted to recount to his friends. Many will feel a keen sense of personal bereavement in his passing.

His only surviving relatives are second cousins, Mrs. Annie C. Bolton of Cooperstown and Mrs. James P. Sheridan, who resides in California.

Full military services, in charge of the Clark F. Simmons Post, American Legion, will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the family home. Interment will be in Lakewood cemetery.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 9 Sep 1938

Transcribed on 23 Apr 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[White, Joel Green]

JOEL G. WHITE ACCORDED FULL MILITARY RITES
Impressive Ceremonies Carried Out By the Legion Post
LAST G.A.R. VETERAN

Large Concourse of Sorrowing Friends Gather to Pay Final Tribute to Fellow Townsman

A large concourse of sorrowing friends gathered at the home on Nelson avenue at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon to pay their last tribute to Joel Green White, last surviving member of L. C. Turner Post, G.A.R., whose death occurred on Wednesday evening of last week. Funeral services which were carried out with full military honors in most impressive manner by Clark F. Simmons Post No. 579, American Legion, were a fitting recognition of a fine citizen and a "grand old soldier."

His flag-draped coffin was borne on a caisson, drawn by four horses, through Main street in a long procession of veterans of the country's later conflicts. The Cooperstown Community band, heading the procession, played Chopin's funeral dirge. Flags displayed along the line of march were at half-mast.

Relatives and friends assembled at the funeral services, arranged under the direction of Legion Commander Earl G. Stalker and Adjutant Alfred R. Cobbett. The Rev. Jackson L. Cole, rector of Christ Episcopal church, gave the invocation and read a beautiful poem entitled "Sleep." The ritualistic prayer of the American Legion was given by Albin E. Johnson, post chaplain, after which the band, stationed on the outside lawn, played "Nearer My God to Thee."

The Rev. Charles Kramer, pastor of the Universalist church of the Messiah, read the 90th psalm, after which Commander Stalker paid his final tribute to an old comrade.

While the band played, the casket was carried from the home by six members of the legion as active pall bearers: Paul A. Clark, Walter Campbell, Emil Ischmann, Alleyn Wood, Carl J. Pierce and Robert Crandall. Members of the legion, Sons of the Legion, Spanish war veterans, and local members of the U.S. Reserve corps formed a guard of honor.

Honorary pall bearers, who walked beside the bier to the cemetery, were all neighbors, George H. Carley, Bruce L. Hall, Nelson A. Houck, G. Reed Sill, William C. Smalley and Ralph B. Wood.

Also in the procession following the caisson detail, which was in charge of Newton E. D. Gilmore, was a beautiful mount, with empty saddle, led by Legionnaire S. Paul Steere.

At the cemetery, Chaplain Johnson read the committal, following which the American flag which had covered the casket was removed by two legionnaires, folded so that only the star field was visible, and presented most impressively by the chaplain to Mrs. Emma Ostrander Quaif, only family survivor. The salute fired over the grave by the firing squad concluded the ceremonies.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 16 Sep 1938

Transcribed on 23 Apr 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY