

Joel White

I've outlined a lot of information about the White family in the previous 2 essays. But Joel is on the outskirts of both stories so I'd like to focus on his journey. Joel was the son of Suel White who lived in the brick house that is now 720 Templeton Rd in East Montpelier. His sister was Amanda White who I profile in CHAPTER ??? He married Arminda Guernsey from Worcester in 1838 and they had 7 children between 1840 and 1856. A baby every 2 years was common in those days. Her children: **Corilla 1840-1926, Sarah 1844-1882, Eliza 1846-1876, Henry L. 1847-1880, Emma Amanda 1849-1937, Lucy R. 1855-1859, George H. 1856 -1891.**

In the 1840s Joel had a window sash and blind business in East Montpelier across Templeton Rd from his father's brick house, now 720 Templeton Rd, on a brook that had several mills on it. Two mill ponds remain today. In 1840 Joel was in charge of Weights and Measure for East Montpelier, making sure that peoples' scales and measuring devices were accurate. In 1850 I find ads in the paper for Joel's sash and blind business which he shared with George Bulkely of Moretown¹, married to Arminda's sister Sarah. George and Sarah lived near Joel and Arminda, who I think might have lived at 4288 County Rd at the corner of Daggett Rd.

In 1855 the White family was gearing up for change. The oldest daughter Corilla, 14, married Lester S Hoadley of Moretown, 28. She would turn 15 four months later. The Bulckleys may have introduced the Whites to the Hoadleys. They went west the next week, probably by train, oxcart and boat, to Duran Wisconsin.

Joel's family was not far behind. He sold his business to Hazen Bailey Lyford² of Cabot in 1855. Joel and Arminda went west as well and there were complications with where some of the children ended up, elaborated on in CHAPTER XXXX.. We'll focus on the ones who went west with Joel. More and more Vermonters were on the move west as newly opened lands to the west offered a chance for a better life. The Bulkleys moved back to Moretown to start another sash and blind business. In 1869 newspapers reported that "The Great Flood" ravaged rivers in Vermont.

The 1860 census found Joel in Fond working as a mechanic in Fond Du Lac Wisconsin on Lake Winnebago with children Henry and Corilla³. But surprisingly there is a new wife in his life, Cevilla Hoadley, Corilla's aunt. Arminda had had a break down and was back in Vermont with her sister Eliza. Who knows if her mental condition forced marriage to end, or if her condition was caused by the marriage break up, but Joel and Cevilla married and soon had a baby that died in infancy. The other children were back in Vermont with family as detailed in Chapter

¹There were mills in Moretown along the Mad River.

² Hazen was clearly named after Jacob Bayley & Moses Hazen of Newbury Vermont who built military road from Newbury to Quebec during the Revolutionary War. Cabot portion of the road survives.

³ Her husband Lester must be off building a house for them on their new land in Long Prairie, MN

XXXXX Joel's daughter Ellen, married to Horace Pierce, was in Pepin, in far western Wisconsin, made famous as the birthplace of Laura Ingalls Wilder who wrote the Little House on the Prairie books.

By 1870 things had coalesced. 3 sisters, Corilla, Eliza, who had been in Vermont, and Ellen plus their husbands were living in adjoining farms in Long Prairie, Minnesota where they had bought tracts of land. Eliza had married Albert Madison. Their brother Henry L had settled nearby, married and was working as a cabinet maker. The wood working trade was clearly a family theme. The three sisters became devoted Christians and were active in a small rural church which was later called the Whiteville Church in their honor.

Joel and Cevilla were settled in to Fon Du Lac for good. He was working as the superintendent of a planing mill. Son George was now living back with his father Joel and his step mother, and Cevilla had given birth to two little ones, Eddie, 9 and Jennie, 5.

I'd like to follow Corilla to the end of her adventure. Her siblings died young, except her sister Emma Amanda who lived a quiet life in Burlington, VT. with her husband Levansaler, and granite dealer. They had no children. But Corilla and Lester Hoadley had more traveling to do. In 1902 when she was 62 and he was 71 the family moved to California to look for a better climate due to some lung issues. They then settled briefly in Washington State before moving again in 1910, when Corilla was 69 and Lester was 78, to Kalispell Montana to live near their youngest son Fred and his family.