

Chauncey S. White family

Chauncey S. White, whose portrait adorns this page, and now one of the most prominent and highly esteemed farmers of Sweden and the country around, was born in Madison county, New York, May 30, 1814. He is of the sturdy New England stock, possessing in a remarkable degree the industry and rigid moral

characteristics of that people. His father, **John White**, was born in Pelham, Massachusetts, in 1784, and married October 20, 1812. At an early day he moved to Madison county, in this State, at that time a comparatively new country, where for several years he cultivated the soil, did much to advance the improvements of the country, and was foremost in establishing the foundations of society upon a sound moral basis. But, like very many of that day, he was attracted to the cheaper lands and newer country of western New York, then rapidly filling up, and in 1821 he removed with his family to Sweden, and located on the farm where his son Chauncey S. White now resides. Here by his industry and good judgment, he became widely known as a successful farmer and a leading man in the community. He prepared and soon carved out one of the finest and most productive farms in the town, transformed a wilderness of forest into a garden, and by example and constant effort did much to advance the best interests of society. After the consummation of a great work begun in hardship, he died August 21, 1866, mourned by many friends, a sincere Christian, and an honest man. Chauncey S. White was the oldest of four children, and has lived almost from infancy and grown up with the community of which he is an important member. A man of strong convictions and high personal worth, none now living in the town, perhaps, has done more to improve the moral and religious character of its people, both by example and effort, and certainly but very few ever attained so high a place in their confidence and esteem. Unusually well favored with this world's goods, both by inheritance and the rewards of his own industry, he has surrounded himself, in his declining years, with every comfort and luxury he could desire, and has been enabled to do much, in a solid sense, to advance church and charitable interests. Careful and correct in his business



Source: p.164; William H. McIntosh



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matters, he is liberal in his dealings, and to his debtors very indulgent, as shown in the large number of loans he has made among his neighbors; the first instance has yet to occur where he has ever pressed the payment of an obligation when due, to another's inconvenience. Mr. White succeeded to

his father's estate in Sweden, which has constantly improved under his industry and careful management, while he is now justly regarded as one of the most capable and successful farmers in the town. In politics he is a Republican, but not a rigid partisan. By the inherent traits of his character he would naturally gravitate to that political organization, that was the most bitter foe to human slavery. He has been twice elected supervisor of the town,—in 1859-60. No place-hunter or office-seeker, in any sense, he takes part in politics only from conviction and duty. At the outbreak of the great war of the rebellion no man was more determined in his duty or patriotic in his efforts. With a liberal hand he contributed from his substance, and by every possible means in his power he labored to strengthen the arm of the government in its great life-struggle. In the numberless needs that sprang into existence during that terrible tempest of war, no appeal was made in vain, no effort unexpended, or duty left undone where it was in his power to aid, and he was ever the zealous patriot to his country and a friend of its defenders. Finally, in a community noted for its high character and moral excellence, Mr. White has been foremost in every movement for reform and social improvement, or in any effort contributing to the welfare of his fellow-men. He has no sisters, and but one brother, **Leverett White**, who resides in Michigan. He was married in Sweden on October 5, 1837, to a daughter of **Elder Peter Sutphen**, whose portrait accompanies her husband's on this page. An estimable lady of the most exalted Christian character, she has long been a zealous member of the Presbyterian church, and an aid and counsel to her husband in every good work. Blessed with large means, and without children, they have had greater opportunities for aiding their fellow-beings, in helping those in need, in acts of charity, and advancing the

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interests of their church, which have been performed in no stinted manner. Her father, **Peter Sutphen**, was born of pious Dutch parents, April 20, 1791, at North Branch, New Jersey, who removed with their infant son to Otsego county, New York, where he spent his childhood. On November 30, 1815, he married **Martha McKinnan**, a lady of Scotch parentage, born in New York, with whom he lived for nearly fifty-one years. In 1816 he purchased a farm in Sweden, and in the year following he removed to it with his family. Here he has been held in the highest estimation, not only as a very devoted Christian, but as the noblest and purest of men. As has been said of him, "Ever industrious in his habits, few men of his class read more, or understood better what they read, than he; and, with a mind well stored, and with conversational powers of no ordinary degree, he was ever a welcome guest in social circle as well as the more grave assembly; and who that ever

knew **Peter Sutphen**, with his warm, generous, confiding heart, can forget in a lifetime his manner of greeting a friend, grasping the hand extended to him with both his own, and pressing it with an affection that made one *feel* there was a *heart* in the salutation?" He became converted, and made a public profession of faith on July 13, 1834, and on March 1, 1835, he was ordained a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church of Sweden, which he filled till his death, which occurred on November 1, 1865. He was attacked with apoplexy while attending the semi-annual meeting of his presbytery at North Bergen, on the 13th of June previous. He raised four children, two of whom survived him,—**Mrs. White**, and **Ten Eyck**,—the latter now living in New Brunswick, New Jersey. His son, **Rev. Joseph W. Sutphen**, died on heathen grounds, while engaged in the work of foreign missions.

[McIntosh, W.H.; 1877; p.164, 165]

Note: Other pictures of the Whites are available. A map showing where they lived is needed. NF

Source:
William H. McIntosh; "History of Monroe County NY: Town of Sweden & Village of Brockport" Published by Everts, Ensign & Everts (1877); 716 Filbert Street; Press of J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.
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