



GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02610 2928

Gc 977.202 F77wh  
Public Library of Fort Wayne  
and Allen County.  
Capt. James B. White, Ft.  
Wayne soldier, merchant, banker



Captain James  
B. White



Fort Wayne  
SOLDIER  
MERCHANT  
BANKER





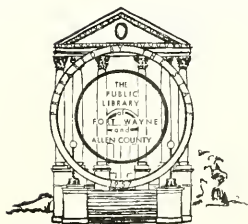


Captain James B. White



*Captain James B. White*

*Fort Wayne*  
SOLDIER  
MERCHANT  
BANKER



Allen County Public Library  
900 Webster Street  
PO Box 2270  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

One of a historical series, this pamphlet is published under the direction of the governing Boards of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOOL CITY OF FORT WAYNE



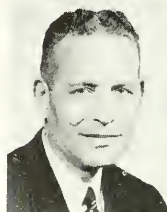
W. Page Yarnelle, Treasurer



Wilmer E. Dobecker, Secretary



B. F. Geyer, President



Willard Shambaugh



Mrs. William C. Rastetter, Jr.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD FOR ALLEN COUNTY

The members of this Board include the members of the Board of Trustees of the School City of Fort Wayne (with the same officers) together with the following citizens chosen from Allen County outside the corporate City of Fort Wayne



James E. Graham



Mrs. Frank Dulin



Mrs. Charles Reynolds



Gerald W. Morsches

## FOREWORD

The latter half of the nineteenth century witnessed Fort Wayne's transition from a rural community to an industrial metropolis. Aggressive, farseeing men made possible a local transformation in industry, transportation, trade, and commerce. Captain James B. White, a man of business acumen and broad interests, was a leader in local mercantile, political, and financial circles of that era.

This publication, outlining his life and influence, is another in the series of completed and projected biographies of foremost men of the Summit City. Source material was drawn from histories, newspaper files, and personal interviews. William T. White, grandson of Captain White, graciously permitted the use of family papers and photographs.

The Boards and the Staff of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County present this biographical sketch with the assurance that the life and times of Captain White will prove interesting and informative to both Fort Wayne's older and younger generations.



## A BUSTLING COMMUNITY

In the middle fifties of the last century, Fort Wayne was a thriving community. The decade from 1840 to 1850 saw the population of Allen County increase by 185%. Similar growth continued. The 1850 census recorded for Allen County a population of 16,919; that of 1860, 29,243--an average increase of about 1,300 per year.

The community was primarily rural, since business and industry depended chiefly on the surrounding territory for raw materials and markets. Nevertheless, the beginnings of an industrial center began to appear. Jack Edward Weicker presents the following tabulation:

	1850	1860
Types of Industry	34	45
Individual Firms	93	155
Capital Invested	\$242,500.00	\$432,450.00
Value of Raw Materials	\$289,740.00	\$782,205.00
Males Employed	399	916
Women Employed	5	5
Average Male Wage per Month	\$ 23.46	\$ 27.34
Average Female Wage per Month	\$ 8.45	\$ 19.45
Annual Value of Industrial Products	\$550,850.00	\$1,334,105.00'

Businessmen showed a progressive spirit, for in 1850 ten plants were driven by steam power, which began to displace hand-, water-, and horsepower. The 1858 city directory lists 143 industrial firms, an increase of six a year.

This rapid growth was caused by two important factors. Immigrants in large numbers staked out new farms and became customers for the products of the manufactories. Canals and railroads made possible the importation of raw materials and the shipment of finished goods to distant markets. In general the industry of Fort Wayne consisted of small shops and mills

in which skilled or semi-skilled workmen plied their respective trades, all operations in most cases were performed by the same

worker without benefit of power-driven machinery.<sup>2</sup>

Modest as it was, this industrial activity, nevertheless, laid the foundation for the rapid advance in industrialization which followed the Civil War.

To this thriving, energetic community came Captain James B. White, whose name is written large in the business history of Fort Wayne.



## EARLY YEARS



James Bain White was born in Denny, Stirlingshire, twenty miles east of Glasgow, Scotland, on June 26, 1835. He was the fourth child of John and Anne (Bain) White. His father, a man of intelligence and integrity, managed an extensive calico printing establishment in Denny, which employed over five hundred people. His mother was a woman of strong individuality and strict religious convictions. She provided James, his four brothers, and two sisters with an exceedingly exacting and careful education at home. James never received formal schooling. What he had learned from his mother, he later supplemented by reading, study, and contact with the world.

At the age of twelve he was apprenticed to a tailor. After a two-year apprenticeship he gave up tailoring for calico printing, at which he worked until he was nineteen years of age. James was a sturdy youth, with a shock of black hair, piercing brown eyes, and a well-proportioned body.

The town of Denny lay not far from the river Forth, which flowed along the northern border of Stirlingshire and emptied into the Firth of Forth. Along this river were built many of the sailing vessels which plied the Atlantic Ocean. These vessels were usually manned by Scotch sailors. The busy wharves afforded a natural rendezvous for the young boys of the vicinity. There they heard tales, often grossly exaggerated, of the wonderful opportunities to make quick fortunes in the New World. Irked by the strict economies of the stout Scotch families, the boys dreamed of fantastic careers to be carved out in the young and vigorous United States of America.

Little wonder that young James, feeling dissatisfied with

his prospects in Scotland, began to dream of a career abroad. Accordingly, early in the summer of 1854 he embarked from Glasgow in a sailing vessel, the cost of a steamship passage being too great for his limited means. Off to America he sailed, clad in a homespun suit, carrying only sufficient luggage to keep himself clean and presentable. After a voyage of thirty-four days--comparatively fast for a sailing vessel--he landed in New York in midsummer.

But Fortune did not greet him with a smiling face and open arms. His first experience was one of disillusionment. He sought in vain for employment at his trade of calico printing in New York. Most likely the tailoring shops also afforded no opening. Finally he found a job in a printing establishment at Marmaroneck, Westchester County, New York. Unfortunately, the establishment closed in November, 1854, with no prospect of reopening during the winter. Young James was unable to obtain further work. Disheartened and discouraged, he would have returned to Scotland had he been able to pay his passage home. In desperation, he went in search of his maternal uncle, John Bain, who, in 1844, had settled in the vicinity of Fort Wayne.

The journey to Indiana from New York was difficult and tedious. James went to Buffalo by rail and then proceeded to Toledo by steamer. In Toledo, he boarded a packet boat on the Wabash and Erie Canal and arrived in Fort Wayne in late November, 1854. Young James left his trunk in the boat office as security for the sum of three dollars, which he owed on his fare from Toledo to Fort Wayne. He walked six miles to his uncle's home on the Winchester Road. There he helped his uncle husk a load of corn which they took to town and sold to provide the money to redeem his trunk.

## GETTING A FOOTHOLD

Business was dull in Fort Wayne during the winter of 1854-1855. Consequently, young James was employed by Wade C. Shoaff, the most prominent merchant tailor of the city, only until the beginning of the new year. Then he worked a few weeks in a machine shop. In February he took a job in the stoneyard of John Brown, who also operated the first steam-power grist mill in Fort Wayne. Young White's pay was three dollars a week and board, which was

considered a good wage at that time. But the job lasted only three months.

James again found work with Mr. Shoaff in May, 1855, and remained with him during the summer. The following winter, he worked in the tailoring department of Nirdlinger and Oppenheimer's clothing store on Columbia Street. In the summer of 1856, young White, now twenty-one, opened his own tailoring shop on the second floor at the southeast corner of Columbia and Calhoun streets. Not succeeding as he had hoped, he abandoned his business, went to Cincinnati, and from there to St. Louis, Missouri, where he found employment in a commission house as a shipping clerk. A few months later, he obtained work in a wholesale dry goods house at a salary of six dollars a week. Unable to make ends meet, he again resumed tailoring. After a few months' experience he shipped his outfit to Fort Wayne, where, in the winter of 1857, he opened a tailor shop over the S. C. Evans & Co. Dry Goods Store at the corner of Main and Calhoun streets.

This winter, James met Maria Brown, a half-sister of John Brown, the stonemason for whom he had worked shortly after his arrival in Fort Wayne. Maria Brown was born in Glasgow in 1836, the daughter of John and Janet (Blair) Brown. Her father was one of the leading contractors and builders of Glasgow. Her mother was known for her Christian character and her unswerving fidelity to the doctrines of the Presbyterian Church, of which she was a life-long member. Maria came to this country in 1853 in the company of her brother, who was returning from a visit to his native land. She brought with her a hope chest filled with linens and quilts since she and her family hoped that she would find a desirable husband in America. Her mother followed her in 1858 and lived in Fort Wayne until her death in 1874.

After a speedy courtship James and Maria were married in the winter of 1857. Tall, with rather stern eyes and a head of glorious titian hair, Maria was a bride James could well be proud of. Maria often boasted to her grandchildren, "I had one beau, and I married him." The wedding trip was short--on the new railroad to Warsaw, where James had accepted employment with Becker and Frank, tailors. Two of their children were born there.

Since Maria missed her friends, the couple returned to Fort Wayne two years later, where James again opened a tailoring shop.



# OLIVER P. MORTON,

GOVERNOR  
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.



AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
OF THE MILITIA THEREOF.

To all who shall see these Presents, Greeting:

Know ye, That in the name and by the authority of said State,  
I, OLIVER P. MORTON, Governor, do hereby appoint and commission  
*James D. White* to the office of *Captain*  
in and for *C. D. 30th Regt.* of the *Indiana*  
*Volunteer Militia.*

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to  
be affixed the Seal of the State, at Indianapolis, the *15th*  
day of *September* in the year of our Lord, 1861

BY THE GOVERNOR: *O. P. Morton*  
*W. P. Steele* Secretary of State.

COUNTERSIGNED BY *Log Noble*  
Adjutant General Indiana Militia.

Captain White's commission from Governor Morton

This time his business prospered so that he was able to acquire a little house and lot valued at about three hundred dollars, the first of many land purchases. The family also grew until there were seven children in all--this despite the prediction of a gypsy who read Maria's hand and promised her health, happiness, and gold, but no more children than the three she then had.

## CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE

The outbreak of the Civil War by the firing on Fort Sumpter electrified the local community. The FORT WAYNE SENTINEL, which had opposed the election of Lincoln, promptly declared itself wholeheartedly in favor of the Union and against secession. On April 13, 1861, Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to serve for three months. This number set the quota for Indiana at six regiments of 770 men. Three days after Lincoln's call, one company, which filled the local share of the state's quota, was mustered into the Ninth Regiment. But even though the quota was filled and no more men "could be mustered into the service of the United States," two companies were a few days later "mustered into the Twelfth Regiment, which was organized as a regiment in the state's service for one year, but was, a short time after, transferred to the service of the United States."<sup>5</sup> In less than eight days 12,000 men volunteered throughout Indiana. To capitalize on this patriotic enthusiasm, the Indiana legislature on April 29 authorized the Governor to accept six regiments for the defence of the state.

The first soldiers to leave Fort Wayne were the Fort Wayne Rifles. Organized by April 27, they left for the scene of action on April 29. When they returned on July 31, 1861, at the expiration of their three months' service, they received a grand reception marked by dinners and patriotic speeches.

By this time it was evident that the war would not come to a speedy end. The patriotic fervor which flamed throughout the nation inspired also Mr. White. Accordingly, he sold his stock and business to join the army. He assisted Colonel Sion S. Bass in recruiting a company. At the election of officers the men made him captain. He moved his command to Camp Allen, Fort Wayne, where it was made Company I of the Thirtieth Indiana Volunteer Militia. White received his captain's commission from Governor Oliver

War Department,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, Sept 27, 1888.

Sir: James B. White  
House of Representatives.

Dear Sir,

Agreeably with your request I have had the records of my office very carefully examined, and take pleasure in stating that there is nothing to your discredit in them. I find from them that you were mustered into service as Captain with company E, 30<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteers September 24, 1861, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and that your resignation tendered October 25<sup>th</sup> 1862 from Camp near Lebanon, Kentucky, was accepted and you were honorably discharged thereon November 3<sup>d</sup> 1862, in special orders from the Department of the Cumberland.

I am Sir,

Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant

Adjutant General

The Adjutant General's letter

regarding Captain White's military service

P. Morton on September 15, 1861. After securing essential equipment in Indianapolis, his company joined the forces of General Wood at Camp Nevin, Kentucky.

The regiment reached Nashville too late to participate in the Battle of Fort Donald but arrived at Pittsburg Landing in time to take part in the second day's engagement. Next, the men took part in the Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862, one of the bloodiest engagements of the Civil War. In this battle Captain White was wounded in the right side by a spent Minie ball. He came home to recuperate but returned to his post in time to participate in the Siege of Corinth, which lasted three months and led to many skirmishes between the Union and Confederate men.

After the evacuation of Corinth, Captain White's company helped pursue General Bragg's forces to Nashville and fought numerous skirmishes with the retreating Southerners. On October 25, 1862, Captain White resigned his commission at the camp near Lebanon, Kentucky, because he became involved in a controversy with his superior officer, Colonel Dodge, whose needless restrictions and impositions proved unendurable.<sup>4</sup> His resignation was accepted, and he was honorably discharged on November 3, 1862.

However, Captain White did not leave the scene of battle. In the spring of 1863, he and Joseph A. Stellwagon were appointed sutlers to the Eighty-eighth Regiment by a committee consisting of the Colonel, the Lieutenant-Colonel, and the Major of the regiment. In this service--a sort of mobile post exchange--which was provided for by the army regulations of the time, White followed the regiment and sold the soldiers such items as were not furnished by the government commissary, some of which were necessary to combat the scurvy and other diseases due to malnutrition which were prevalent among the troops. He provided his own merchandise and wagons. Seeing how the poorly-clad soldiers suffered from cold, White, though a total abstainer himself, once ordered several kegs of whisky from a distillery in Fort Wayne. Knowing that White never touched liquor, the shipper planned on an extra profit by heavily watering the whisky, never expecting to be found out. On its arrival the whisky was frozen. The cold weather revealed the shipper's duplicity.

White did his "sutlering" more in the interest of the soldiers than of his own pocketbook.

Veterans of the 88th say that he was the queerest sutler in the army. He gave away nearly as much as he sold, and no needy man ever went to him to be refused for lack of money. Before the noise of battle died away, with no apparent thought of personal danger, he would be seen upon the field with his wagons, and those in distress who could not pay were generously helped.<sup>5</sup>

While acting as sutler, White was twice captured by the enemy. When he was on his way to the front in the Wheeler raid into the Sequatchie Valley, near Chattanooga, the Confederates captured his wagons. This put him into a precarious position. At the time he was

the bearer of important papers within the enemy lines and in citizen's clothes. The papers were concealed in one of the boxes that the rebels would be sure to rifle. The situation was extremely perilous. As if he were one of the invaders, Captain White sprang into the wagon where his papers were kept, and began breaking open his own boxes. Crying, "Look at these, boys," he so engaged the situation of the rebels in opening packages and devouring dainties they had not seen for months that he was enabled to conceal and save his papers by the loss of everything he owned. It was an instance of rare courage and presence of mind.<sup>6</sup>

The second time he was captured, the Confederates paroled him with little loss of his goods. Accordingly, he resigned his sutler-ship in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1864, and came home in December of that year.<sup>7</sup>

In February, 1865, he planned to visit his home in Scotland. One of the necessary preparations consisted in taking out his second citizenship papers and becoming a citizen of the United States in order to be eligible for a passport. Accompanied by his brother-in-law John Brown, Alexander Muirhead, and Isaac Jenkinson, an attorney and from 1863 to 1869 part owner and editor of the FORT WAYNE DAILY GAZETTE, he went to the courthouse for that purpose. Brown and Jenkinson were sworn as his witnesses, and the oath of naturalization was administered to him by Judge Borden.<sup>8</sup> At the naturalization someone remarked it, "as strange that a Union soldier must swear allegiance to the U. S. Government and re-

FORT WAYNE FRUIT HOUSE AND OYSTER DEPOT.

WHITE & BORDEN.

DEALERS IN  
Apples, Oranges, Lemons, Fine Apples, Grapes, Canned Fruits,  
OYSTERS, BUTTER, EGGS, & C.

Fort Wayne, Ind., July 11<sup>th</sup> 1867

Fort Wayne Fruit House and Great Tea Depot.

Fort Wayne, Indiana, March 18<sup>th</sup> 1871.

Fruit House, J. B. White, Proprietor.

Fort Wayne, Ind., April 2 1887

nounce allegiance to Queen Victoria."<sup>9</sup> The naturalization was not entered into the court record, and the papers issued to White at the time together with his marriage certificate, commission in the army, and other papers were subsequently lost.<sup>10</sup> Early in March he started for Europe. In New York a telegram reached him, informing him that his wife was very ill. Thereupon he returned home in order to be at her side.

  THE FRUIT HOUSE  

Unable to travel abroad, White turned his attention to business opportunities. In the spring of 1866, possibly by May 1, he and Nellis Borden opened a cold storage plant for perishable food-stuffs in the Harmony Lodge building on Berry Street. White had bought the rights to a patented process of preserving fruit, but later discarded it. On November 22, perhaps sooner--the available records do not permit a definite statement--the following advertisement appeared in the FORT WAYNE DAILY GAZETTE:

Fort Wayne Fruit House and Oyster Depot, No. 12 Berry Street, opposite Avalon House. We will keep on hand at all times and supply the trade with Apples, Oranges, Lemons, Pine Apples, Grapes, Oysters, etc., etc., etc. And we will pay the highest market prices for Butter, Eggs, Fruits, etc., etc. Our superior facilities for preserving these articles will enable us to give customers the benefit of sound Fruits in any quantity. We respectfully solicit orders and will give them prompt attention. White and Borden.

On December 10 two plugs appeared in addition to the regular advertisement:

Save 20% by buying your Oysters at the Fruit House,  
only 50 cents per can.

Half a Dollar will buy a can of those fine large  
Baltimore Oysters at the Fruit House.

By August, 1867, White must have acquired sole control, since the "Business Directory" published in the DAILY GAZETTE

(August 27, 1867) lists only his name and not that of an associate. In 1871 White moved his store to 20 West Berry Street and called it the Fort Wayne Fruit House and Great Tea Depot. The JOURNAL-GAZETTE credits him with being the first merchant to mark his goods with a plain price tag--an idea supposedly suggested by his wife.<sup>11</sup> The business was conducted on a spot cash basis. At the time a cash grocery business was almost unheard of. But the Captain stuck to his principles. Shortly after he had established his cash system and before that fact was generally known, the wife of one of the wealthiest men in northern Indiana made a large purchase, which she then asked to have charged. White kindly and politely, but firmly, told her that credit was extended to no one. That settled the matter. If she could not get credit, it was clear that no one else need try.

But the Captain knew how to temper his strict cash policy. He always carried with him an ample supply of loose change. If when walking from department to department and greeting the people, he saw someone who needed an article but was unable to pay cash, he would quietly call him aside and advance him the necessary cash to make the purchase. The Fruit House became the general downtown meeting place, where the genial proprietor had a warm handshake for all comers. In some localities Fort Wayne was known as the place where the Fruit House was to be found.

Captain White was an aggressive merchandiser. During most of 1871 he ran a double column half-page advertisement in the SENTINEL, which carried the slogan "All goods retailed at wholesale prices." In the upper half was a black teapot, which attracted immediate attention. Business grew during 1871 and according to an article in the SENTINEL, climaxed in a huge boom of holiday trade at the Christmas season. But business did not drop materially during the week after Christmas because of the "rich things that could be purchased for a small amount of money."

On Saturday night, January 6, 1872, an employee carried a lamp to the rear of the store to draw some kerosene for a customer. He let the lamp fall. It broke. The kerosene caught fire. Fed by the oil in the containers, the flames spread so rapidly that the entire building was a blazing inferno by the time the fire department arrived. For a time the neighboring buildings were threatened. But by great effort the firemen confined the flames to White's





" . . . he would advance the necessary cash . . . "

building. The total property damage amounted to \$110,000, of which \$80,000 represented White's loss. His insurance amounted to \$25,000 on which he received the first payments on January 17.

Undaunted by the losses, White carried on. The following Tuesday the SENTINEL carried his regular advertisement of groceries, fruits, liquors, cigars, etc., and in addition a special display advertisement, reading

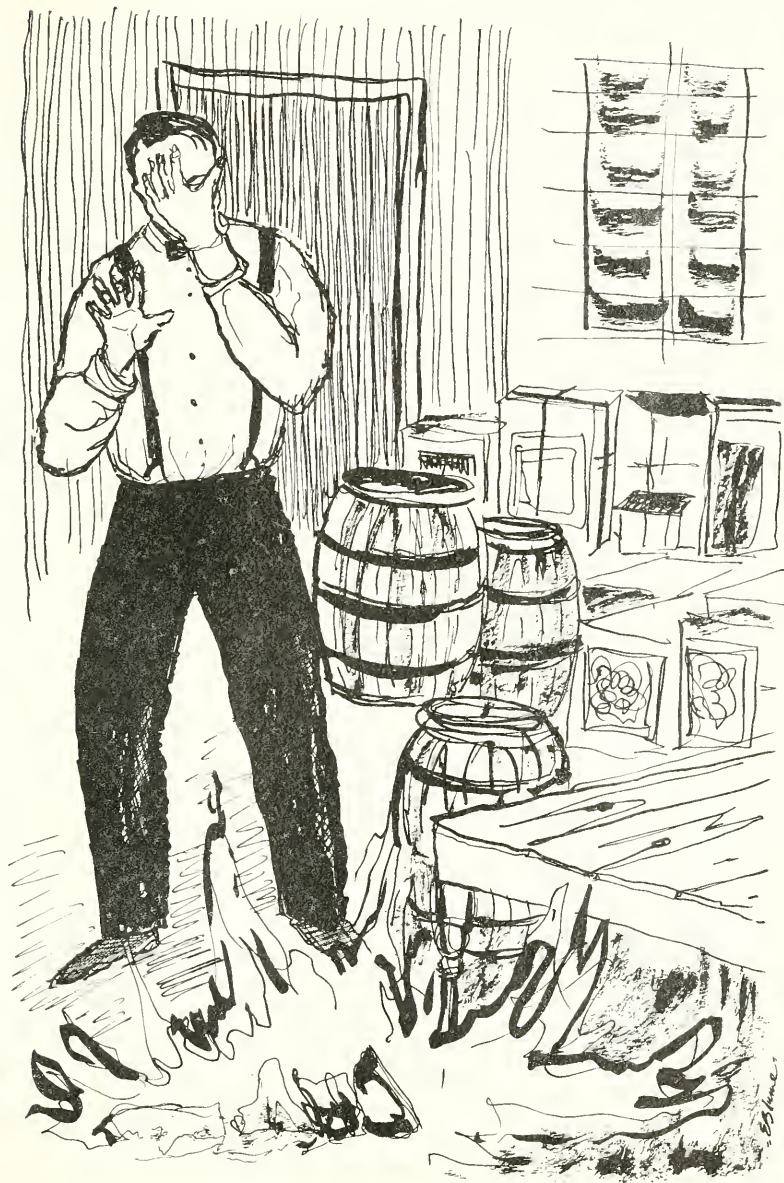
CAPTAIN WHITE STILL ALIVE! THE FRUIT HOUSE HAS FALLEN, but it Shall Rise Again in Sixty Days, Stronger than ever. I Never Give Up the Ship. Will be Ready to Receive Customers in Two or Three Days. WATCH THE PAPERS.

The next morning he was back in business across the street at 9-11 West Berry Street in what had been a livery stable, which he remodeled into a large room. White ran his special advertisement concurrently with his regular display advertisement till January 16. From January 17 to 25 the last sentence read, "Is now in Full Blast and Ready to Receive Customers." A notice on February 3 informed the public that shipments of new goods, ordered since the fire, had arrived from New York and were on sale at the customary low prices. On that day the regular advertisement appeared in a new wording:

FRUIT HOUSE BURNED OUT BUT GOING AGAIN OPPOSITE THE OLD STAND. Our stock is now complete, the Great Destruction has not interrupted our trade. In two days after the Fire we were open and doing business and thank the public for their kind patronage as we no sooner opened than they commenced patronizing us and our trade is better today than the day we burned out. We will continue in the future as in the past to please our patrons by selling them Goods at the lowest possible profit and guaranteeing everything we sell satisfactory or refund the money.

  DEPARTMENT STORE  

The business expanded rapidly and by 1879 the Fruit House carried general merchandise as well as fruits and groceries. An article by Edward T. Austin in the SAN DIEGO UNION of April 6,



"He let the lamp fall . . . the kerosene caught fire."

1897, citing a letter from C. W. Lynn of Inglewood to George W. Marston, states that Captain White studied the merchandising methods of Peter Kiser.<sup>12</sup> Kiser had opened a Fort Wayne store in a three-story brick building, which he had stocked with a great variety of merchandise in order to sell to everybody. He departmentalized his store on a large scale to enable himself and his two sons to care for the business. Kiser also instituted a cash and carry market. In some sections of his store he kept merchandise in huge baskets and allowed customers to wait on themselves.

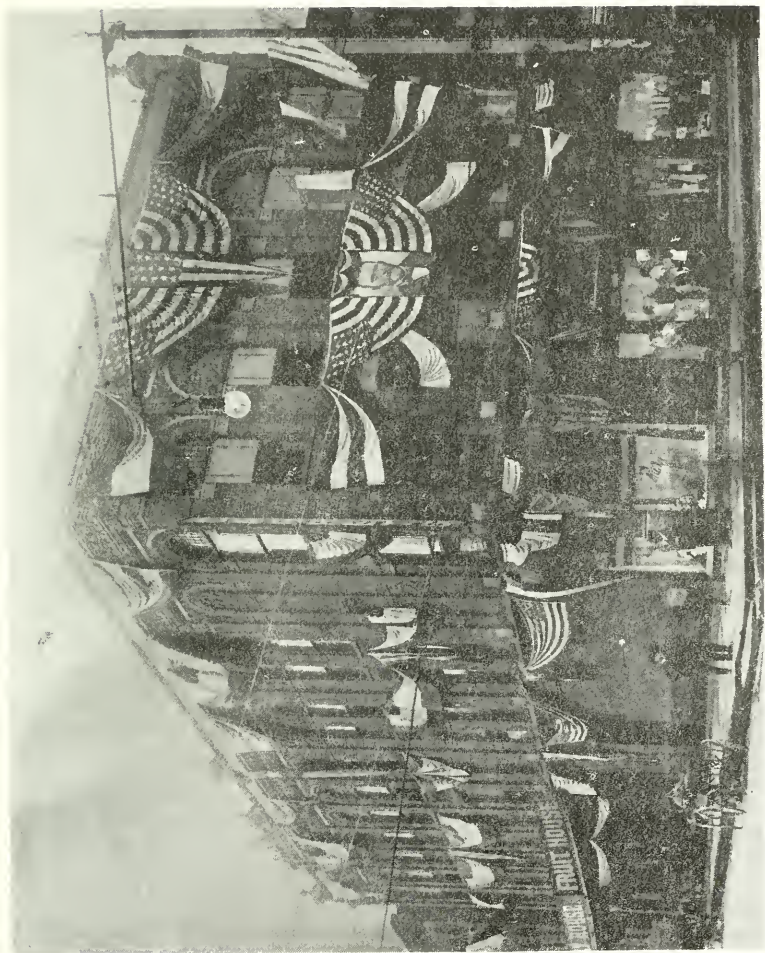
According to Mr. Lynn's letter, White spent many hours wandering through Kiser's store, studying his methods. He found Kiser's departmentalization rather haphazard. But he adopted the basic principle and put the department idea on a more systematic basis.

Gradually his business outgrew the accommodations on West Berry Street. In 1896 White changed the name of the business to the White Fruit House and moved to the southeast corner of Wayne and Calhoun streets, the site of the present Grand Leader building. At first he occupied Nos. 95-97 on Calhoun Street and 8-12 on East Wayne Street. When the firm which occupied the corner moved, White took over the vacated area, consolidated it with the space he already occupied, and used it for the rug and drapery department.

Thus the White Fruit House, as the business continued to be called, became

conspicuous as a department store. They occupy the entire building on one of the most prominent corners of the city, and have the most complete apartment [sic] house in Fort Wayne. Every floor is a store in itself, and shows superior judgment in the selection and arrangement of stock. The grocery department is exhaustive, and represents the freshest and best that grocery goods can offer. The meat department is the delight of home keepers, and is only one example of the perfect organization through the entire house. They have the most extensive trade in the city, which is made secure by the perfect conduct of business, and truthful representation of goods.<sup>13</sup>

The firm employed from seventy-five to one hundred people. The annual business ran to half a million dollars. In a way, it was



The White Fruit House at the turn of the century  
(Southeast corner of Wayne and Calhoun streets)

the supermarket of its time. The store carried "oriental rugs, liquor ('76 [a choice whisky] at \$2.50 a gallon), meat, groceries, men's wear from straw hats to felt-topped boots, calico, silk, crockery" besides items like jewelry, toys, green and roasted coffee, notions, carpets, mirrors, portiers, drapes. Some of the important men in the establishment were "Natsi Freiburger, foreman; Si Greensfelter, cashier; Will Aumann, bookkeeper; and Katie Schwieters, assistant cashier." Scores of prominent Fort Wayne men and women "got their start in the Fruit House as cashboys and clerks, selling vinegar, pickles, buttons, needles and shoes."

Saturday nights were the big nights. The store remained open till ten o'clock, whereas the regular closing time was eight, except on the paydays of the Wabash and Pennsylvania railroads, when the store closed at nine. But on Saturday nights, families, clad in their Sunday best, streamed in from the surrounding territory as well as the city, "the weekly bath ritual having been taken care of that afternoon in the kitchen."<sup>14</sup> The Fruit House was "the busiest retail house in the city."<sup>15</sup> It was the general meeting place downtown, the center for local news and politics.

White pursued an aggressive merchandising policy. His Fruit House carried the first chainless bicycles available in Fort Wayne. In fact, Harry Muller, later judge, who began his business career as a cashboy in White's at \$2.50 a week, sold the first chainless bicycle to Will Hobson. Old residents of Fort Wayne recall when a drove of pigs was stranded in Fort Wayne and put up at auction. White bid the lot in. He had them butchered in the basement of his store where the meat department was located. He sold them at a ridiculously low price. Result--almost everyone on the streets that day seemed to be carrying a slaughtered pig under his arm.

According to the Lynn letter, referred to above, a salesman from The Fair in Chicago noticed White's plan of departmentalization. Much impressed with its possibilities, he outlined the plan to his employers in Chicago, who thereupon organized the first regular department store. There John Wanamaker studied the idea and applied it to his store in Philadelphia. It was then taken up by Macy's of New York, Marshall, Field & Co., and Carson, Pierie & Scott of Chicago, and many others. Thus perhaps the most characteristic retail merchandising idea of America had its beginning



White Fruit House  
Grocery Department and General Office

in the White Fruit House of Fort Wayne. Colonel Robert S. Robertson refers to White as "a man who anticipated and used the plan of the modern 'department' store long before it was in use here or elsewhere."<sup>16</sup> In later years White's store was known as White Fruit House Department Store.

Colonel Robertson also comments:

The Captain's methods were conservative and careful, and his discrimination so potent that he passed successfully through the ordeal which overthrew so many business concerns, being consecutively successful in his operation.

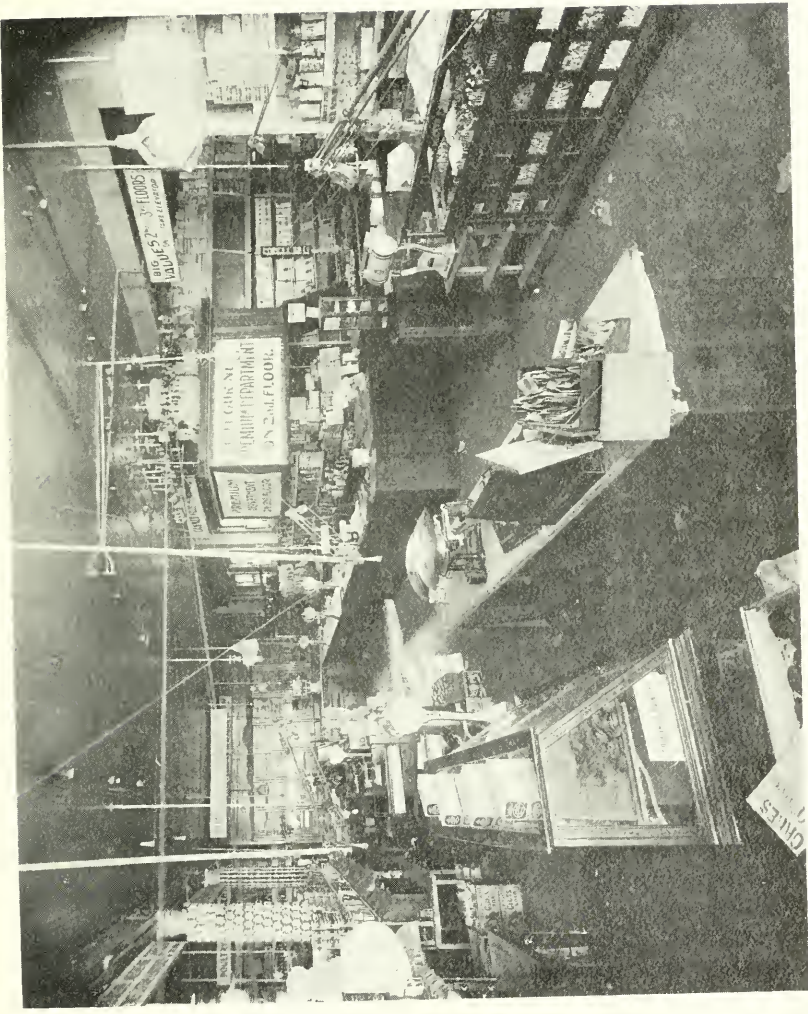
In his HISTORY OF ALLEN COUNTY, Robertson writes, "Captain White is justly considered one of the most daring business men of the west."

## REAL ESTATE VENTURES

Alert to the business opportunities provided by a growing city, Captain White acquired tracts of real estate in the east end of the city and laid them out in lots--a venture that proved profitable to him and beneficial to the city. His first addition--approximately 154 lots--was bounded on the north by East Wayne Street, on the east by Memorial Park, on the south by Maumee Avenue, and on the west by Smith's addition just west of Anthony Boulevard. His second addition--approximately 64 lots--extended from Maumee Avenue to the Wabash Railroad tracks and lay between Wabash Avenue and Warren Street. His third addition--24 lots--faced Anthony Boulevard between East Berry Street and East Washington Boulevard. A fourth addition--226 lots--fronted the Nickel Plate Railroad between Glasgow and Fairview avenues and extended almost to the Maumee River. His fifth addition--38 lots--lay on both sides of Cochrane Street from 1,000 through 1,200 east. The sixth addition--36 lots--was bounded on the north by Griffin Street, on the east by Hanover Street, on the south and west by the Nickel Plate Railroad. A seventh addition lay along both sides of Liberty Street between Harmar and Begue streets.

In 1872 Captain White and his son John W. White founded the White Wheel Works. They invested \$100,000 in the concern. All





White Fruit House  
Cookie and Candy Counters and Cashier's Office

kinds of carriage and wagon wheels were manufactured. The business became one of the largest enterprises of its kind in the United States and gave employment to 130 men. The payroll ran as high as \$4000 a month. The Works contributed materially to the city's reputation as an industrial center and to its prosperity. The Whites successfully managed the company until 1892, when plant and business were sold to the American Wheel Company.

In the early 1870's Captain White purchased the stock of the FORT WAYNE GAZETTE. This paper had been established in 1863 by D. W. Jones, who was induced to move his printing outfit from Grant County, Indiana, to Fort Wayne, and publish a paper in the interests of the Union people of Allen County. He operated the first successful steam printing press in Fort Wayne. In 1875 White disposed of one-half of his stock to General Reuben Williams and Quincy A. Hossler. The following year all the stock was purchased by the Keil Brothers.<sup>17</sup>

In 1880 White was the owner of Colerick Hall, which was located on the north side of Columbia Street, east of Clinton. It was the first public hall in Fort Wayne, having been opened to the public on December 26, 1853. In 1864 it was refitted, improved, and named Colerick Opera House.<sup>18</sup> Information of when and how White disposed of the place is not available.

Beginning in September, 1879, White also speculated on the Board of Trade in Chicago. To keep these speculations from becoming known lest his credit be impaired, his account was carried in the name of a Chicago broker. Through this broker he bought and sold corn, wheat, oats, pork, and other commodities. In 1879 these transactions amounted to \$105,000; in 1880, to \$1,718,000; in 1881, to \$640,000; in 1882, \$672,000. In April, 1882, he closed the account. Dissatisfied with his broker's accounting, he brought suit for \$15,000. He carried his appeal to the United States Supreme Court, which decided against him on December 5, 1887.<sup>19</sup>

## POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Despite his many business activities, White always maintained a lively interest in politics and good government. Before he was naturalized as an American citizen, he was a campaign worker for John C. Frémont, first Republican candidate for the United



White Fruit House  
Meat and Poultry Department

States Presidency. In his later years he became active in politics. In the early 1870's friends urged him to run for city councilman. In broaching the matter to his wife, he explained, "Everybody wants me to run for the Council." She inquired, "Who wants you?" James admitted, "I don't know." Though he made no secret of his stalwart Republicanism, the Second Ward, a Democratic stronghold, twice elected him to the City Council. In 1874 he ran for Clerk of the Circuit Court and almost overcame the customary Democratic majority of three thousand.

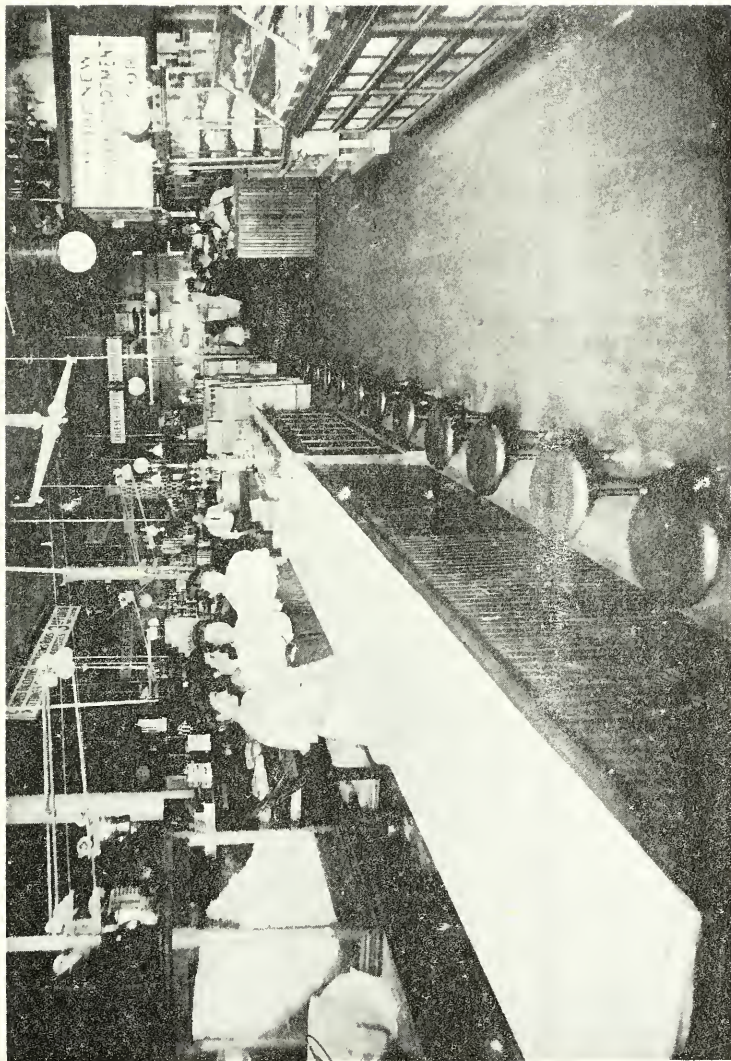
But the fact that he was a staunch Republican did not blind him to party faults. His political activity was governed by the same forthright honesty and sincerity that had won him hosts of friends.

---

He was very independent in his political actions, and when Tilden was counted out of the Presidency in 1877, Captain White, although he had warmly supported Hayes, had the manliness and courage to denounce the crime.<sup>20</sup>

---

In 1886 White's friends urged him, as a public duty, to accept the Republican nomination for Congressional representative from the Twelfth District. Although this district had never elected a Republican to Congress, White accepted the nomination. The campaign was hotly contested. When it became apparent that the Captain had a decided edge on his opponent, Judge Robert Lowry, the Democrats decided on a piece of dubious strategy. During the campaign they had learned that the local court records contained no evidence of White's naturalization. To hamstring any defence, two of Lowry's campaign workers, Andrew J. Moynihan and Robert C. Bell, on Thursday before the election sent a telegram to White, who was out in the country campaigning, asking for an interview. White complied. The meeting took place on the Friday before the election.<sup>21</sup> They asked him if he had ever been naturalized. White answered, "I am a citizen; I was naturalized in this Allen County, and Isaac Jenkinson was with me when I was naturalized. I was naturalized in the court house."<sup>22</sup> Nevertheless, a few days before the election the charge was published that White was not a citizen of the United States and was therefore constitutionally ineligible for office.<sup>23</sup> To quote from the argument which Mr. O'Ferral of Virginia made in the House of Representatives,



White Fruit House  
Ice Cream Counter

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Lowry had known for weeks that there was no record remaining in the court of Mr. White's naturalization--notwithstanding that Bell had known that fact--it was kept back until five days before the election, after every weekly paper supporting Mr. White had gone to press and to the country. And then Mr. White is telegraphed for, is brought back from his campaign, and Bell and Moynihan confront him, spread around him the meshes of the net prepared for him, and make the charge that he is not a citizen.<sup>24</sup>

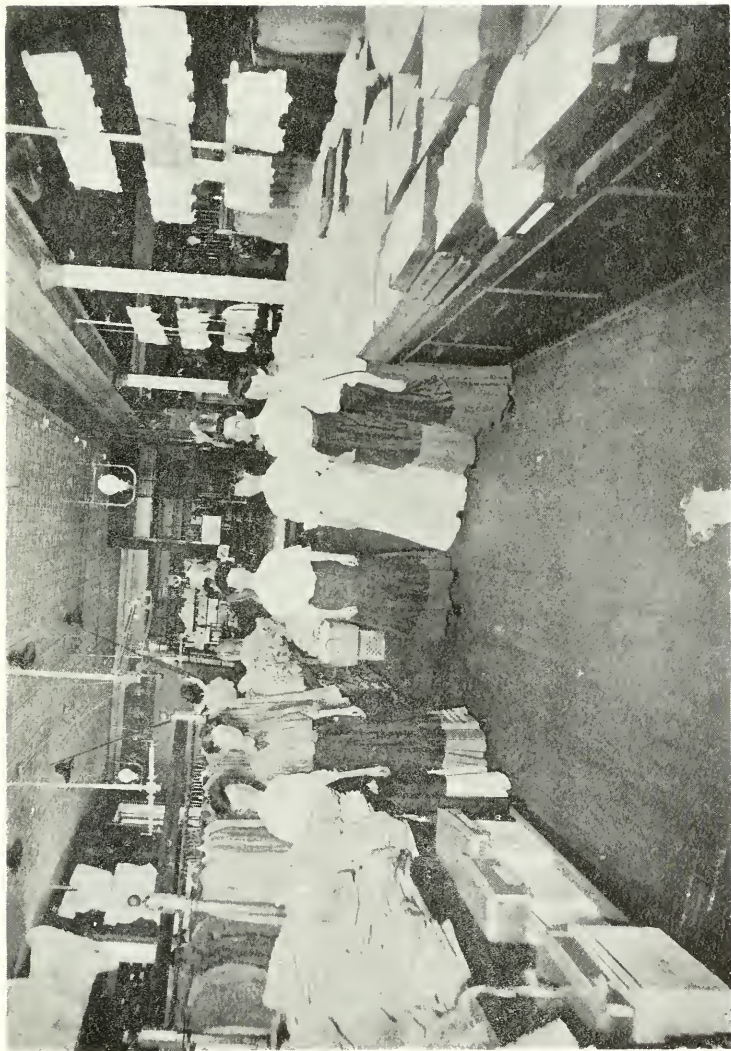
White hurriedly had dodgers printed and distributed in which he asserted his citizenship and asked the voters to support him.

The election, according to Colonel Robertson's HISTORY OF THE MAUMEE RIVER BASIN, "attested to his [White's] unbounded popularity and the unqualified confidence reposed in him." In a district where the Democratic majority normally amounted to 3,000, White defeated his opponent by a majority of 2,500 votes.

Reluctant to bow to the will of the majority, Judge Lowry carried the contest to the House of Representatives, claiming that the Captain was not entitled to the seat the voters gave him because under Indiana law only fully naturalized citizens could hold office and that the absence of any record of White's naturalization was proof positive that he had not been naturalized. Though defeated at the polls, Lowry asked the House to give him the seat White had won. The House of Representatives referred the dispute to its Committee on Elections, which took up the White-Lowry contest on January 17, 1888. Major Calkins represented White before the Committee. After holding sessions behind closed doors, the Committee recommended that White be declared ineligible on account of

his not having complied with the law of the state relative to perfecting the records of the court clearing his title to citizenship. Under the laws of Indiana Mr. White was not a citizen of the United States when he was voted for as a candidate for Congress, though entitled to vote, but ineligible to hold office.<sup>25</sup>

The vote followed strict party lines--Democrats voting against and Republicans for seating White. However, the Committee, but for one vote, unanimously refused to recommend seating Mr. Lowry



White Fruit House  
Ready-To-Wear Department and Boot & Shoe Department

in White's place. The Republican members of the Committee filed a minority report.

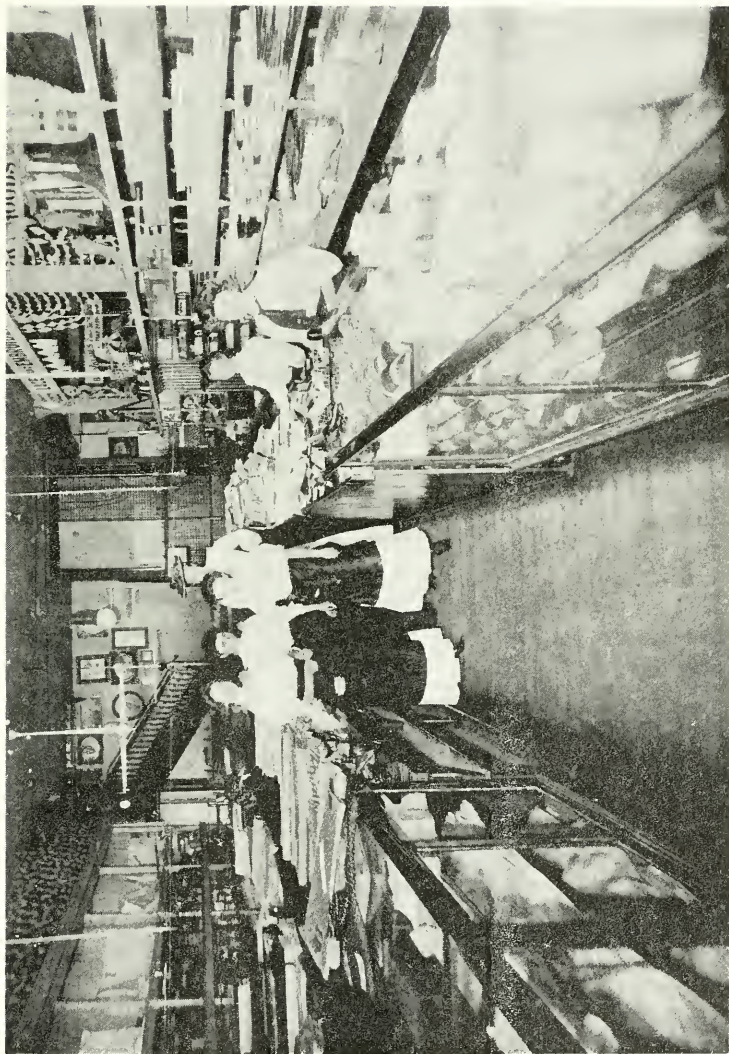
The question at issue was whether in the absence of documentary evidence of White's naturalization, parol or oral evidence should be regarded sufficient. White's opponents argued "it is the record of the court which confers naturalization on the foreigner admitted to citizenship, the proceedings required by the statute culminating in a judgment of the court."<sup>26</sup> White's supporters maintained that in the absence of documentary evidence parol evidence should be accepted, that the sworn statements of witnesses to White's naturalization were satisfactory evidence of his naturalization, that naturalization depended on the action of the court and not on the fact that a record was made at the time, since naturalization and citizenship would then depend on the carefulness or carelessness of a clerk.<sup>27</sup>

By mutual consent each side was allotted four hours for debate. In the course of the discussion White picked up some support from the Democratic side of the House. The Honorable Bourke Cockran, Democratic congressman from New York, made an especially eloquent and effective plea to accept White. On February 7 White was seated by a vote of 184 to 105, forty-seven Democrats joining the Republicans.

The dispute attracted no little attention. On February 11, 1888, the INDIANAPOLIS NEWS reprinted this bit of crude journalistic humor from the "Washington Correspondence" of the NEW YORK HERALD.

Mr. James B. White, whose contested seat in Congress has taken up so much of the time of the House during the past few days and who has just been awarded his seat, has many of the qualities of Dickens' Job Trotter [a character in the PICKWICK PAPERS]. As Sam Weller says: "He cries like a portable engine," and his eyes shed briny tears at every mention of his case. He has spoiled seventeen pocket handkerchiefs since Lowry began the fight upon him here; he wept a quart during Bourke Cockran's speech. Still he does not look like a sentimental man from the galleries; he has more the appearance of a prosecuting attorney in a fair-sized country district, or a respectable village grocer, than of a patriot, a statesman, and a possible martyr. His age is now fifty-two, and



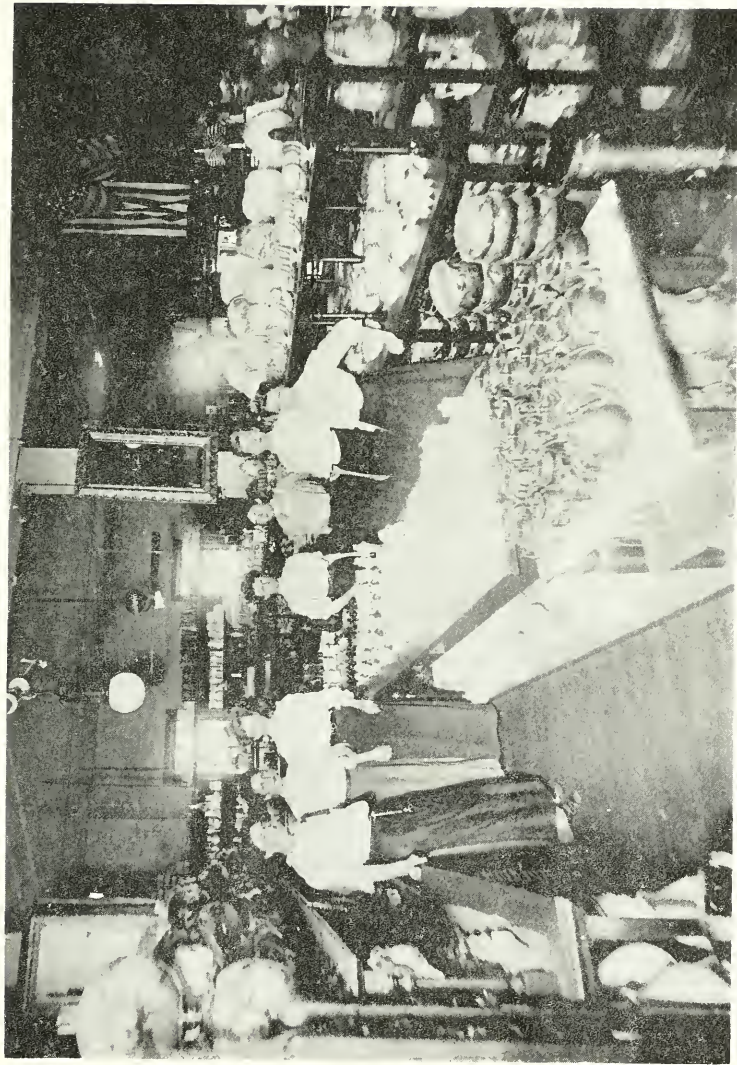


White Fruit House  
Yard Goods Department

he weighs, I judge, about 175 pounds. He is of medium height, rather portly, dresses in black broadcloth, and he looks as though he had on his Sunday clothes. His face is an intelligent one. It has a florid tint, and the lower part is adorned with chin-whiskers of brown. He has dark brown hair, combed well up from a rather high forehead. His forehead is of the ivory whiteness of the calla lily. He talks ordinarily well, and he is a good average man, who would size up very well with about four-fifths of the present Congress.

During his term in Congress Captain White worked zealously for the good of his own district and that of his country. He introduced a minimum wage bill which provided for a daily wage of \$1.50 for men, \$1.00 for women, and 75 cents for boys and girls. The defense of this bill he incorporated in his speech on "The Tariff," on Saturday, June 30, 1888. A minimum wage law, he argued, would protect helpless workers against rapacious employers, shield decent employers against cutthroat competition which would force them against their will to cut wages to a bare subsistence level. By increasing the purchasing power of a large part of the population, it would initiate an industrial boom, increase the income of farmers, develop a growing home market, and thus make industrial dumping unnecessary. The absence of such a minimum wage law in Europe led European countries to dump their surplus goods on the American market, thus depressing employment and making a tariff necessary.<sup>28</sup>

In defending a protective tariff, White took issue with President Cleveland, who had recommended the repeal of the tariff. The example of Britain, he argued, showed that free trade did not necessarily bring prosperity and that a tariff would not raise the price of articles purchased by the common people since home competition would keep the price down, as was the case with cotton. A tariff would raise prices only on luxury articles purchased by rich people for the prestige which the use of imported articles conferred on them. The income derived from this tariff, he declared, could well be employed to pay Civil War veterans a monthly pension of eight dollars. Finally, he insisted that a tariff would serve to build up home industry, since other countries could not flood the American market with surplus goods made with cheap labor. Link-



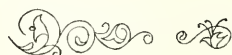
White Fruit House  
China, Glass, and Crockery Department

ing the need for a tariff to the need for a minimum wage law, he argued that it was the part of wisdom to protect both the laborer and the product of his work. Captain White bolstered his argument with statistics and examples drawn from economic history, manufacturing, and his personal experience as a merchant.<sup>29</sup> He spoke as a practical businessman; his arguments were widely quoted and carried considerable weight. Since Mrs. White was in poor health and not equal to the rigors of Washington society, his daughter Grace acted as his hostess.

In 1888 Captain White again ran on the Republican ticket as congressional representative from the Twelfth District. The Democrats nominated Judge C. A. O. McClellan of Auburn, who defeated White by a small margin.



## BANKING



Upon returning from Congress, White resumed the management of his business affairs with bounce and energy. In 1892 he and his son, John W. White, opened the White National Bank of Fort Wayne, which was chartered on April 15, 1892. The bank opened for business on April 25 in a building which, at the time, was considered one of the handsomest in the city and which had been erected by Mr. White. It was equipped with safety vaults and burglar-proof safes. It was located on the northwest corner of Clinton and Wayne streets and is now occupied by the Dime Savings Bank. The capital of the new bank was two hundred thousand dollars. The first officers were John W. White, President; Thomas B. Hedekin, Vice-President; Harry A. Keplinger, Cashier. An aggressive but conservative policy soon established the bank as a sound financial institution, whose stock was quoted far above its face value. According to the volume FORT WAYNE, 1905, A PICTURESQUE AND DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT, "The policy of this bank has been to give liberal support to all that was worthy and hold a balancing hand over all that seemed frenzied or uncertain."

Early in 1905 it became apparent that a stronger bank with greater resources was necessary to finance the growing industries of the city. Accordingly, the officers of the White National Bank and the First National Bank quietly conducted negotiations looking to a consolidation of the two institutions. The merger was an-



Fountain in Denny, Scotland, given by the White Family

nounced on August 7, when the agreements had been signed. Final details were settled August 18. The formal consolidation was effected on Saturday, August 25, when the effects, cash, and accounts of the White Bank were transferred to the First National Bank. At the time of the consolidation, the total resources of the White Bank were \$2,193,979.87. Many people regretted to see the bank close, but none questioned its financial and banking record.

## OTHER INTERESTS

Business affairs did not entirely engross White's attention. In 1890 he was elected a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church. In 1892 he and the other members of the White family in the United States and Scotland united to present a fountain to their ancestral home town of Denny. To the gratification of the donors, the commissioners and the Provost of Denny erected the fountain in the middle of one of the chief streets. In 1892 he was delegate to the national Republican convention in Minneapolis, which nominated Harrison for the Presidency and Reid for the Vice-Presidency. White took great pride and pleasure in his appointment as one of the Indiana commissioners to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. He was one of the most popular and honored members of the Sion S. Bass Post, No. 40, Grand Army of the Republic. To the post he presented his company's battle flag. In 1894 he served on the staff of Thomas G. Lawler, Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R. The Caledonian Society of Fort Wayne, an organization of Scottish residents of the city, found in White a leader and an ardent supporter.

## PERSONAL GLIMPSES

White was universally liked and took a great interest in people. Both plain and prominent people counted him a friend. With all his success and increasing wealth he maintained his quiet and simple manner of life. He was dignified without airs and prominent in business and social life without pretension. To the end of his life he lived in the same house he occupied when he first entered business, having enlarged it as his family grew and his social obligations increased. He maintained a steady contact with his rela-

June 29<sup>th</sup> 1892  
Siltwood Bank  
Pollokshields

To The Commissioners of Wenny  
Gentlemen

We have herewith the pleasure, of handing over to your care and keeping, the Fountain Presented to the Inhabitants of Wenny, while thanking you, and your worthy Provost, for the courtesy and spirit with which he entered into the project, and helping to bring it to a successful issue, by securing from the County Council, the grant of such an excellent site for the structure, which, we trust, will be found to be somewhat ornamental and useful, to our Native Town,

We are Gentlemen

Yours Truly

William White	Glasgow
John B White	Pollokshields
James B White	Fort Wayne U.S. America
Chesyer White	Kansas City U.S. America
Edward White	Manchester.
Mrs Ann Craig	Glasgow.

tives in Scotland and visited them repeatedly. In fact, a trip to Glasgow was, in his opinion, a sure cure for any illnesses or problems troubling his children. Nothing was too good for his family. He provided his wife Maria, who was in frail health, with servants. None of the seven children ever considered eating any part of a chicken except the white meat. He imported Malaga grapes for a frail daughter and provided horses for another. Each child received an excellent education. After several years in the local public schools, the boys attended a military academy in Pennsylvania. When they attained their majority, he set each up in business. The girls who were interested in a higher education attended Western College at Oxford, Ohio.

White's personal habits remained simple. He regularly walked to and from his business, being noted for his erect carriage, his firm step, and his friendly greetings to his friends and acquaintances. After supper he allowed himself one cigar. At home he indulgently let his wife Maria have control, although no one for a moment ever doubted who was the real boss. Any silver left in his pockets at night after he had retired, Maria quickly appropriated. White was fully aware of his wife's little game and occasionally provided her with an extra thrill by leaving a gold piece in his pockets. She carefully hoarded these pickings in a bureau drawer for special extravagances. From this drawer, which to her children seemed filled with gold pieces, she doled out spending money to the children.

Maria outlived her husband by some years, but life held little interest for her after her husband's death. She was a woman of marked business ability and acumen. Captain White regularly consulted her in his business problems. At his death she inherited the property. Among the real estate holdings was the present site of the Peoples Trust and Savings Company. Patrick J. McDonald began negotiations with her for the purchase of the property. Since he did not decide quickly enough to suit her, she sent him word that she would probably die one of these days and that he would find dealing with her far easier than with a group of heirs. Result? Mr. McDonald hurried round with a satchel full of gold and closed the deal.

White's generosity was proverbial and stemmed from his confidence in and knowledge of people. Anyone in trouble found



him ready to listen, to advise, and to help. He owned many houses, but no tenant worthy of trust was ever evicted because he could not meet the rent. Captain White once granted his former Warsaw employer, Marx Frank, a generous credit on Mr. Frank's word. It was probably not the only time White helped a person without requiring security. Later, Mr. Frank was able to return the favor by making purchases for White in New York. The relationship bespeaks a mutual confidence based on sterling character.

## LAST ILLNESS AND FUNERAL

On October 2, 1897, Captain White became ill. At first his illness was not considered serious. A speedy recovery was expected. But a few days later his condition suddenly grew so serious that a hazardous surgical operation was necessary. Captain White asked to have the operation performed even though he knew that the chances were against him. When his friend and pastor, the Reverend Dr. Moffat talked with him, he showed himself perfectly at rest in heart and with no fear of death. His mother's faith had become his own, and fears of the future did not disturb him.

Captain White was promptly removed to St. Joseph Hospital, where the best equipment was available. The operation was performed by four of Fort Wayne's most prominent surgeons--Doctors William H. Myers, Miles F. Porter, Sr., Hiram Van Sweringen, and Marquis Greenewald. The patient's strength, however, was not equal to the shock of the operation. Death came about forty-five minutes after the operation, October 9, 1897.

His wife and children were at his bedside when he passed away. The children had reached mature years and were prominent members of the community. John W. was president of the White National Bank, Edward was president of the White Fruit House, James B., Jr., was secretary of the White Fruit House, Alexander B. was manager of the Higgins Artificial Ice Company of Fort Wayne. Jessie was the wife of Julius A. Bona, and Grace, who later married W. S. Morris, was living at home. Grace White Morris survived her father by almost fifty-nine years, dying July 5, 1956.

On October 10, the FORT WAYNE GAZETTE expressed the sorrow of the people of Fort Wayne on the death of Captain White.

It [his death] was . . . a personal loss to thousands. The deepest grief was felt in the humble homes where the dead man had been a friend and benefactor. . . . There was not a deserving case of charity known to him that he did not alleviate. . . . It is little wonder that a cry of grief went up from the many whose burdens had been made lighter by his helping hand and whose sorrows had been assuaged by his voice and counsel. . . . Many engaged in the commercial world who had enjoyed the benefit of his . . . moral support in their business trials mourned for a departed friend.

Funeral services for Captain White were conducted on October 12. Before the funeral services, the doors of the family residence at 60 Barr Street were opened to allow friends to pay their last respects. Among them was a group of thirty-five grocers, White's business competitors. They called at the house in a body and after the services marched in the procession which escorted the remains to their last resting place. A brief service was conducted at the house by the Rev. David W. Moffat, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The casket was then taken to the hearse. The honorary pallbearers were Judge Lindley M. Ninde, John M. Moritz, Judge Walpole Colerick, A. A. Purman, A. H. Dougall, and John F. W. Meyer. Active pallbearers were Josias Greensfelder, Ignatius Freiburger, David McKay, James M. McKay, James Liggett, and William H. McClelland.

The first part of the funeral procession consisted of the members of the G. A. R. and the Caledonian Society, the Fruit House employees, city officials, and members of the City Council. They were followed by the officiating minister, the pallbearers, the hearse, and the family and friends in carriages. Long before the cortege reached the First Presbyterian Church at the northeast corner of Washington and Clinton streets, the church was crowded; hundreds stood outside.

The Haydn Quartet opened the service with "Rest Weary Soul." After a Scripture reading by Dr. Moffat, the congregation sang, "My Jesus as Thou Wilt." In his sermon Dr. Moffat referred to White's bountiful charity and simple Christian faith.

Of his big-hearted, free-handed generosity there are hundreds of families in Fort Wayne that can testify. Living simply himself,

his heart and his hand were always open to the widow and the orphan and the sufferers from adversity. His benefactions were done so unostentatiously that it was only from the recipients that they were found out. They were done in such a way as never to humiliate those who received. It was often made to appear to them as a mere business transaction. Many a business man of this city can also tell how Captain White befriended him at a time when he needed a helping hand.

But . . . the greatest comfort of those who sorrow most today is that he became an open confessor of the Christian faith and died in the Christian hope. It was three years ago last April that he stood up before this pulpit and made the public avowal of his faith in Christ and his resolution to lead a Christian life. Last Saturday . . . after talking to him a few moments, I said to him, "Captain, your trust is in Christ." "Oh, bless you, yes," he replied; "the only salvation is in the Savior." In his trust he fell asleep. . . .

The community feels his loss, the church feels his loss, many a heart feels that a friend is gone. . . . The last words he spoke directly to me I give as a message from him to you, "The only salvation is in the Savior."

The Haydn Quartet sang the hymn which every Scot learns at his mother's knee, "The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want."

The body was then taken to Lindenwood Cemetery for interment. At the grave Dr. Moffat read from the Scriptures and offered a prayer. Thereupon White's comrades from the Sion S. Bass Post decorated the grave with the flag and flowers and sounded "taps." The funeral cortege which preceded and followed the hearse was over a mile long. During the funeral the stores of Root & Co. and M. Frank & Co. as well as many other of the principal business houses and offices were closed.

  **TRIBUTES FROM NEWSPAPERS**  

. . . his death will be sadly mourned and the place he will leave vacant at all coming reunions will be felt by every member of the Thirtieth Indiana [Infantry]. . . .

--WARSAW TIMES

He was a man of rare business capacity and of fine social qualities and was a warm friend and supporter of public enterprises and useful charities. It is such men as Captain White and Mr. Studebaker (who died the same day) that have helped to make Indiana such a progressive and enlightened commonwealth and their deaths are a serious loss to the state.

#### --INDIANAPOLIS SENTINEL

. . . the city contained no more popular citizen--no one who stood closer to the people and enjoyed, to a greater degree, their confidence and esteem . . . never, it may be truly said did he betray the trust reposed in him by anyone. . . .

#### --WABASH PLAIN DEALER

He was an excellent gentleman, a brave soldier, a true and steadfast friend to those who were entitled to friendship. He was in no sense a camp follower either in an army, the political arena, business circles, or in his private life.

#### --THE KENDALLVILLE SUN

Captain White was one of the most progressive merchants of Fort Wayne . . . began life poor and . . . acquired a large fortune since the close of the Civil War.

#### --LOGANSPORT PHAROS

. . . lamented by thousands of people who knew that genial man and honored and loved him for his noble qualities of mind and heart. . . . He was not only the leading grocer of Fort Wayne but also one of its most substantial bankers.

#### --SOUTH BEND TIMES

Captain White was one of the wealthiest citizens of Fort Wayne. He was the only Republican ever elected to Congress from that district.

#### --RICHMOND PALLADIUM

His record in the popular branch of the national legislature was very creditable.

--COLUMBIA CITY POST

The death of Captain J. B. White, at Fort Wayne . . . is learned with profound regret by numerous friends and acquaintances in Huntington County.

--HUNTINGTON HERALD



TRIBUTES OF FRIENDS



Captain White was one of the strong characters of this city and state--a man of public spirit and generous disposition--in business, equally at home in the smallest details and the largest affairs.

--The Honorable Robert S. Taylor

I shall miss his erect, sturdy figure as I pass up East Berry Street to my home, where for years I have daily met him on his way to or from his business.

--Colonel D. N. Foster

He was so approachable by all classes of people that his friends were legion. A great many young businessmen of this city have set up his career as one to emulate, and thus his influence will be far-reaching.

--J. M. McKay of G. E. Bursley & Co.

For a big merchant he was the easiest of men to meet. He was always ready to listen.

--Adolph Diamond of Pottlizer Bros.

His private charities were large and given unostentatiously. He was the poor man's friend.

**--Judge C. M. Dawson**

No one has done more for the banking, manufacturing, and merchandise interests than he. . . . Unlike many others, he invested his money where he made it--at home.

**--C. S. Bash**

He was a remarkable man in many respects and had an indomitable will and perseverance.

**--John Mohr, Jr.**

He was a true friend to anyone in need of advice or assistance. I have been associated with him in various business affairs and always found him the soul of honor.

**--John F. W. Meyer**

He will be greatly missed, as he did so much for the poor and needy. He was a progressive man and loved his city.

**--E. C. Rurode**

It is the hardest blow the business community of this city has ever met with.

**--A. H. Perfect**

He was a high-minded, generous man, and an ideal citizen.

**--The Honorable W. G. Colerick**

His death removes one of our strongest characters and best liked men.

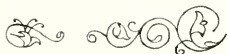
**--George W. Pixley**

He did his duty as he saw it. Honest, firm, unyielding in the right, he adorned every station in life to which he was called. . . . A lover of home, of his wife and children, devoted to them one and all, he set an example for others to emulate, and left them a heritage worth more than the wealth he gathered--a good name, unstained by any wrongdoing to his fellow man.

--The Caledonian Society







1. Jack Edward Weicker, "The Growth of Fort Wayne Industry, 1815-1860" (Master's thesis, Indiana University, 1950), p. 112.
2. Ibid., p. 117.
3. T. B. Helm, HISTORY OF ALLEN COUNTY (Chicago: Kingman Bros., 1880), p. 62.
4. FORT WAYNE NEWS, October 11, 1897.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 1888, p. 957a.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid., p. 989.
10. Ibid., p. 922b.
11. FORT WAYNE JOURNAL-GAZETTE, May 11, 1908.
12. A copy of the article was sent to James B. White, Jr., by Frank Smock, who had been an official of Bursley & Co., Inc.
13. FORT WAYNE, INDIANA, 1905: A PICTURESQUE AND DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENT MERCHANTILE AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS AND ADVANTAGES OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA (n.p.: n.p., 1905), p. 8.
14. FORT WAYNE JOURNAL-GAZETTE, November 5, 1933.
15. B. J. Griswold, SOME FORT WAYNE PHIZES (Fort Wayne, Indiana: n.p., 1904), p. 67.
16. C. E. Slocum and R. S. Robertson (eds.), HISTORY OF THE MAUMEE RIVER BASIN FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS TO ITS ORGANIZATION INTO COUNTIES (Indianapolis: Bowen & Slocum, 1905), II, 133.
17. Helm, op. cit., p. 108.
18. Ibid., p. 120.
19. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 1888, p. 991.
20. INDIANAPOLIS SENTINEL, October 10, 1897.
21. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 1888, p. 918a.
22. Ibid., p. 989b.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid., p. 952a.
25. INDIANAPOLIS NEWS, January 20, 1888.
26. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 1888, p. 916b.
27. Ibid., p. 923a.
28. Appendix to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 1888, p. 264b.
29. Ibid.











**HECKMAN**  
BINDERY INC.



**MAY 95**

Bound-To-Pleas<sup>®</sup> N. MANCHESTER,  
INDIANA 46962

