Chester White—Town of Sweden, NY

About 1816 or 1817 **Chester White** and his wife **Sally Howes White**, together with his three brothers, two of hers and their families bought land in what is now the Town of Sweden and moved from Madison, N. Y. In 1828, **Chester's** untimely death left **Sally** with four small children and a farm barely started. We have no way of knowing how much help she may have received from her late husband's or her own brothers who had all settled in the same area. At any rate, she must have been a very good manager as evidenced by the fact that her children all received excellent educations at a time when most girls at least did well if they learned to read and write. Also letters to her son **Leonard**, after he had married and taken over the management of the farm, giving him advice on all sorts of subjects from stocks and political trends to the probable crop outlook would seem to bear this out. About 1840 she rebuilt and enlarged the original frame house to its present form.

Leonard, the only son, married **Abigail Crocker White** of Bergen (whether these Whites were distant relatives or not is not known) and as mentioned before, took over the management of the homestead about 1850. From this time until almost the day of his death he kept ledgers listing every item of expense and income whether it be thousands of dollars of a mere 2 cents. Being drafted in 1864, he followed a practice considered perfectly legitimate and honorable at the time and for the sum of $1,050 hired one **Charles Anderson** to substitute for him.

Leonard's family consisted of three sons, **Clayton**, **William** and **Kirke**, and one daughter, **Clara**. What we know of **Leonard** comes from the ledgers, letters from his mother, sisters and other relatives and recollections of his son, **William L. White**. He was evidently a successful farmer and business man, took very little part in politics, liked to hunt, played violin often, getting together a group consisting among others, of two cousins from Bergen who played bass viol and cornet, and his daughter, **Clara**, a graduate in music of the State Normal School, on piano. He took immense pride in **Clara**, and her untimely death from consumption, as T. B. was called then, was a shattering blow.

When **Clayton**, the oldest son, grew up and married, his father bought him the house and farm on the southwest corner of Lake and White Roads and gave it to him as his inheritance.

Leonard died in 1898 leaving his property to his two younger sons, **Will** and **Kirke**. They ran the farm in partnership for about five years. Then, **Will** married **Ellen Remington** and shortly thereafter bought out **Kirke's** share. Soon after this, **Kirke** married and moved to California where he lived the rest of his life.

Will and **Kirke** were very nearly of an age, **Will** being a little more than a year the elder. They both were enthusiastic hunters and expert shots. **Kirke** was very active in musical and literary circles that flourished at the turn of the century. Next to hunting, **Will's** favorite hobby was photography. With what would now seem somewhat primitive equipment he took hundreds of pictures, both professionally and for fun. Always interested in mechanical things he was among the first to own an automobile. **Kirke** had no children. **Will's** son, **Herbert** and his wife, the former **Florence Knapp**, are now living in the homestead at 708 West Sweden Road. They had two children. **June** (**Mrs. Richard Maxwell**), who is living with her husband and two children in St. Paul, Minnesota, and **Kirke**, who died this year.

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