

Some Highlights of the Life of **William Farnsworth** (1807-1888) (www.APLib.org)

See "William Farnsworth, A True Pioneer" *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp. 4-6

<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Event</i>
1807	0	Born, weighing 2.5 pounds, Washington, New Hampshire; descended 6 generations from Matthias Farnsworth who came to the new colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1663
1830	23	Married to Sally Mead, neighbor girl; built own home called "Happy Hollow" on 216 acres beside the Ashuelot River (southwestern New Hampshire)
1832	25	Daughter Lucy born (died 1835)
1833/11/14	26	Stars fell
1834	27	Son John P. born (nurses training Battle Creek, typhoid fever specialist; died 1918)
1836	29	Son Stephen born (farmer, lived in Washington all his life; died 1915)
1838	31	Daughter Josephine born (Seventh-day Adventist; died 1860)
1839	32	Son Lucien B. born (died 1862)
1841	34	Son Albert born (baptized in 1864; died 1865); William joined group of 32 neighbors to form the Christian Society of Washington, New Hampshire
1842	35	Washington, New Hampshire, Christian Church built in April; William would lead the singing; most of group became Adventist through preaching of Elder Joshua Goodwin
1843	36	Son George W. born (died 1931); Rachel Oakes, a Seventh Day Baptist, moved to Washington to live with her daughter Delight, who was the school teacher
1844	37	March: Frederick Wheeler, visiting Methodist / Adventist minister, preached his first seventh-day Sabbath sermon, after being challenged by Rachel Oakes; April-August: T. M. Preble learned of and began keeping the Sabbath October 22: Great Disappointment
1845	38	Began keeping the seventh-day Sabbath "just after New Year's in 1845" ¹ ; first in his church to announce his conviction and decision to keep the Sabbath, with a small group following him; separated from other first-day Adventists, began meeting in family homes; first body of Sabbath-keeping Adventists in existence February/March: Preble published his views in the <i>Hope of Israel</i> (Feb. 22, 1845), and later as <i>A Tract Showing That the Seventh Day Should be Observed as the Sabbath Instead of the First Day</i> ; "According to the Commandment" (March, 1845; on CD-ROM). This tract was instrumental for Joseph Bates and J. N. Andrews in their acceptance of the Sabbath. Bates visited Washington, New Hampshire, and found Farnsworth and the others had begun keeping the Sabbath a few weeks before he had
1846	39	Daughter Sarah born (died 1923) Fall: James and Ellen White began keeping Sabbath
1847	40	Son Eugene born ¹ (SDA minister, conference president; missionary to Australia; died 1935)
1847/4/7	40	Ellen White had vision regarding the fourth commandment

In the ark was the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of stone, which folded together like a book. Jesus opened them, and I saw the ten commandments written on them with the finger of God. On one table were four, and on the other six. The four on the first table shone brighter than the other six. But the fourth, the Sabbath commandment, shone above them all; for the Sabbath was set apart to be kept in honor of God's holy name. The holy Sabbath looked glorious -- a halo of glory was all around it. I saw that the Sabbath commandment was not nailed to the cross. If it was, the other nine commandments were; and we are at liberty to break them all, as well as to break the fourth. I saw that God had not changed the Sabbath, for He never changes. But the pope had changed it from the seventh to the first day of the week; for he was to change times and laws. {LS 100.4}

1849	42	Son Augustus born (baptized young; farmer; died 1937)
1851	44	Daughter Imogene born (married a Methodist, joined his church; died 1913)
1855	48	June 30 wife Sally died after a 10-hour illness; married Cynthia Stowell (25 years old) September 19
1857	50	Daughter Lorreta born (first female SDA Bible instructor; married a minister A. Robinson; worked in Africa and Australia; died 1933)
1859	52	Son Orvil O. born (missionary to Ireland and England; died 1947)
1860	53	Daughter Lenora born (baptized; died 1873)
1861	54	Sons Irvin and Benton born (Irvin: layman in Oklahoma, raised up churches; died 1907) (Benton: baptized when a boy; diphtheria; died 1885)
1862	55	Christian Church in Washington officially becomes Seventh-day Adventist, with fifteen charter members.
1865	58	Son Elmer born (minister and teacher; died 1937)
1867	60	Son Alton born (layman in Canada; died 1960)
1867/12/20	60	James and Ellen White, and J. N. Andrews came to the Washington church.

Monday, December 23, the meeting was held during the daylight hours in the William Farnsworth home. Farnsworth was the man who in 1844 had risen to his feet in the Washington, New Hampshire, church and declared that he was going to keep God's Sabbath. Others followed him in his decision. Now there was considerable backsliding among the company of believers in the Washington area. Farnsworth had secretly gone back to the use of tobacco. One of his sons, Eugene, in later years told the story of that Monday meeting in their home, which commenced in the morning and continued for five hours. {2BIO 217.1}

That morning Ellen White had the meeting, and she addressed personally one after another of those assembled in the room. Newell Mead and his wife were among the first. Both had suffered great affliction, and as Ellen White spoke to them she declared that they "had been passing through dark waters" until "the billows had nearly gone over their heads." She assured them that God loved them, and that if they would only trust their ways to Him, He would bring them forth from the furnace of affliction purified. {2BIO 217.2}

Sitting in the group was 19-year-old Eugene Farnsworth, one of William's twenty-two children. As he heard Ellen White addressing one and then another with messages indicating that she had insights others did not have, an idea came to him. He said in his heart, I wish she would tackle my dad. He knew what most others did not know—that his father had slipped back to the use of tobacco. Their farm was quite isolated, and William did his chewing of tobacco on the sly, but Eugene had seen him spit tobacco juice into the snow and quickly scuff it out of sight with his boot. As these thoughts were forming in Eugene's head Ellen White turned and addressed William: {2BIO 217.6}

I saw that this brother is a slave to tobacco. But the worst of the matter is that he is acting the part of a hypocrite, trying to deceive his brethren into thinking that he has discarded it, as he promised to do when he united with the church. {2BIO 218.1}

As Eugene saw these covered sins dealt with faithfully by Ellen White, he knew he was witnessing a manifestation of the prophetic gift. When she had finished with her messages to different ones in the room and there was an opportunity for a response, one after another stood and acknowledged the truthfulness of the message, and with repentance and confession yielded himself or herself anew to God. Then the parents made confessions to their children. This touched the hearts of the young people who had been watching and listening, and whose hearts were being moved by the messages and invitations not only of Ellen but of James White and Andrews. {2BIO 218.2}

1868	61	Son Melbourne born (started Canadian academy; died 1914)
1870	63	Daughter Nellie born (baptized; lived in Lincoln, Nebraska; died 1949)
1872	65	Son Ernest born (local elder in Canada; died 1973)
1874	67	Son Merton born (medical doctor, working in sanitariums; died 1951)
1888	81	Died

Footnotes

1. E. W. Farnsworth, "Symposium of Pioneers," *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, June 4, 1926, pp. 1, 2