

Some Highlights of the Life of **James Springer White** (1821-1881) ([www.APLib.org](http://www.APLib.org))

See "James White, a Man of Action" *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 4-6

(*Lest We Forget*, Vol. 5, Nos. 1, 2, 3 cover James White)

Recommended: *Life Incidents: Connection With the Great Advent Movement, As Illustrated by the Three Angels of Revelation XIV*, 1868. *Ancestry, Early Life, Christian Experience, and Extensive Labors, of Elder James White, and His Wife, Mrs. Ellen G. White*, 1880. (Chapter 5-9 deal mostly with Ellen White.)

Date	Age	Event
1821/08/04	0	Born in Palmyra, Maine, middle of nine children
1836	15	Baptized into the Christian Church fellowship
1840	19	Entered into the academy at St. Albans, Maine; soon taught his first school

At the age of twenty I had buried myself in the spirit of study and school teaching, and had lain down the cross.... I loved this world more than I loved Christ and the next, and was worshiping education instead of the God of Heaven. [His mother's appeal and the witness of friends convicted him of Advent message. He came under conviction similar to William Miller, to share with the students he had taught. After initially rejecting the conviction, he did so. Then he struggled over what his future should be, wanting still to be a teacher.] I finally gave all for Christ and his gospel, and found peace and freedom. {1868 JW, LIFIN 15.2 & 24.5}

1841	20	Joined the Millerites; shared the message of the advent in Troy, Maine
1842/09	21	First heard Miller preach at a meeting in the mammoth tent in Eastern Maine

On returning from the great camp-meeting in Eastern Maine, where I heard with deepest interest such men as Miller, Himes, and Preble, I found myself happy in the faith that Christ would come about the year 1843. I had given up all to teach the doctrine to others, and to prepare myself to do this was the great object before me. I had purchased the chart illustrating the prophecies of Daniel and John, used by lecturers at that time, and had a good assortment of publications upon the manner, object, and time of the second advent. And with this chart hung before me, and these books and the Bible in my hands, I spent several weeks in close study, which gave me a clearer view of the subject. {1868 JW, LIFIN 72.2}

1842/10	21	Began preaching the Advent message
1843	22	Ordained in the Christian Church
1844 Spring	22	First met Ellen Harmon in Portland, Maine (1Bio 70.5)
1844/08	23	Began preaching the Midnight Cry
1844/10/22	23	Great Disappointment

The disappointment at the passing of the time was a bitter one. True believers had given up all for Christ, and had shared his presence as never before. They had, as they supposed, given their last warning to the world, and had separated themselves, more or less, from the unbelieving, scoffing multitude. And with the divine blessing upon them, they felt more like associating with their soon-expected Master and the holy angels, than with those from whom they had separated themselves. The love of Jesus filled every soul, and beamed from every face, and with inexpressible desires they prayed, "Come Lord Jesus, and come quickly." But he did not come. And now to turn again to the cares, perplexities, and dangers of life, in full view of the jeers and revilings of unbelievers who now scoffed as never before, was a terrible trial of faith and patience. When Elder Himes visited Portland, Me., a few days after the passing of the time, and stated that the brethren should prepare for another cold winter, my feelings were almost uncontrollable. I left the place of meeting and wept like a child. {1880 JW, LIFSK 107.2}

1845	24	Accepted light regarding Jesus as our High Priest in heavenly sanctuary
1845/02	24	Began traveling with Ellen Harmon after meeting her at Orrington, Maine
1846/08/30	25	Married Ellen Harmon
1846/11	25	Accepted the Sabbath along with Ellen
1847/05	25	Published <i>A Word to the Little Flock</i> by his wife Ellen (see WLF)
1847/08/26	26	First son, Henry, born in Topsham, Maine
1848/04/20	26	First Sabbath Conference (through 24 <sup>th</sup> ), Rocky Hill, Connecticut (LIFIN 172.2)
1848/08/18	27	Second Bible Conference, Volney, New York; unity obtained (LIFSK 247.2)
1848/08/27	27	Third Bible Conference (through 28 <sup>th</sup> ), Port Gibson, New York (LIFSK 249.1)
1848/09/08	27	Fourth Bible Conference (through 9 <sup>th</sup> ), Rocky Hill, Connecticut

1848/10/20	27	Fifth Bible Conference (through 22 <sup>nd</sup> ), Topsham, Maine
1848/11	27	Sixth Bible Conference, Dorchester, Massachusetts; the "sealing" understood
1848/11/18	27	Ellen received vision for him to begin publishing
1849/05	27	Henry left in care of the Howlands
1849/06	27	Lived at Rocky Hill, Connecticut
1849/07	27	First issue of <i>Present Truth</i> came off the press
1849/07/28	27	Second son, James Edson, born
1850	29	Edson left in care of Sister Bonfoey; James suffered from poor health, but continued writing and publishing; August: first issue of <i>The Advent Review</i> ; November: first issue of <i>Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald</i>
1851/08	30	Lived at Saratoga Springs, New York (north of Albany)
1852/04	30	Lived in Rochester, New York (below Lake Ontario, western New York)
1852 Summer	30	Bought first press
1852/08	31	Began <i>Youth's Instructor</i>
1854/05/23	32	Life saved in train wreck on way to Wisconsin
1854/08/29	33	Third son, William Clarence, born
1855	34	Moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, and built his own home
1860	39	September 20 fourth son, John Herbert, born; October 1, name Seventh-day Adventist adopted; December 14 John Herbert died
1861/05/03	39	Helped incorporate the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association
1863	42	May 20 General Conference of SDA formed; December 8 Henry died
1865/05	43	Became President of the General Conference of SDAs (through May 1867)
1865/08/16	44	Stricken with paralysis; to Dansville, New York
1867/01	45	Health restored; built new home in Greenville, Michigan
1869/05	47	Again President of the General Conference (through December 1871)
1871	50	Edited the <i>Health Reformer</i>
1872	51	Worked to establish the first SDA college; made one of several extended visits to California
1874/06	52	Started <i>Signs of the Times</i> in Oakland, California (editor till his death); precursor to Pacific Press built and equipped
1874/08	53	Again President of the General Conference (through October 1880)
1875/04	53	Pacific Press officially organized
1877/08	56	Nearly paralyzed, left weak
1878	57	Lived in Texas
1880	59	Lived again in Battle Creek, Michigan
1881/08/06	60	Died at Battle Creek Sanitarium after becoming ill with malaria
1881/08/13		Funeral at Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Michigan

[In *Life Incidents*, 1868, he noted the following.]

The title page of this work calls attention to the great Advent movement as illustrated by the three angels of Rev. xiv. The truth and work of God in this movement, commencing with the labors of William Miller, and reaching to the close of probation, is illustrated by these three angels. The first was a time message, and related to the Judgment. The second described the condition of corrupted Christianity. The third is a solemn warning relative to what men may not do, and what they must do, in order to be saved at the coming of Christ. These angels illustrate the three great divisions of the genuine movement. They do not illustrate the numerous time movements which have appeared since 1844; therefore, to say the very least, these movements were not from Heaven. {1868 JW, LIFIN 306.1}

Seventh-day Adventists hold fast the great Advent movement, hence have use for the messages. They explain them in their sermons, treat upon them in their books, and give them a place with the other prophetic symbols upon their charts. They cannot spare these links in the golden chain of truth, that connect the past with the present and future, and show a beautiful harmony in the great whole. {1868 JW, LIFIN 306.2}