William Clinton White was born March 23, 1844, near Uniontown, Pa., the son of William S. and Annie Conaway White. He was one of a family of eight children. In 1855 the family moved by ox team to Ohio where William’s father died two years later of typhoid fever.

William was 17 years old when he enlisted in Company I of the 170th Ohio Infantry on May 2, 1864, in Belleville, Ohio. He was stationed in Washington, D.C., for garrison duty within 15 days of his enlistment. Washington was then being threatened by Confederates under the command of General Jubal Early. The Confederate threat was repulsed, and General Early later said that the firm front presented by these green troops made him think that General Grant’s veterans were before him.

White’s regiment was stationed in Washington till mid-July. The unit then moved up the Shenandoah Valley to Snicker’s Ford, Rocky Ford, Kernstown, Winchester, Martinsburg and finally to Frederick, Md. They then guarded supply trains at Harper’s Ferry until being discharged on Sept. 10, 1864, at Camp Chase, Ohio. The regiment had four men mortally wounded in battle, and 20 died of disease.

The White family moved to a farm in Illinois in 1868 where William White had preceded them and gotten a cottage ready for them.

Some time before 1894 White moved to Grinnell and worked as a painter. On Sept. 17, 1902, William White married Flora Emely Greene in Nevada. Two days later they started housekeeping at 711 Park St. in Grinnell where they made their home for 27 years.

White died on Jan. 23, 1930, at the age of 86. Nine days later his widow died. They were both buried at Hazelwood Cemetery.