

White, William Edgar ^[1]

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by William S. Powell, 1996

19 Jan. 1861–29 Mar. 1935

See also: [White Furniture Company](#) ^[2]



William Edgar White, [furniture manufacturer](#) ^[3], was born in Mebane, the son of Stephen Alexander and Mary Jane Woods White. He received his education at the [Bingham Military Academy](#) ^[4], located near his home, before working as a [telegraph](#) ^[5] operator for the [Southern Railway](#) ^[6] until 1881. With his brother, David A., and a capital investment of \$420, he then established the [White Furniture Company](#) ^[2], of which he was president until his death over half a century later. The company made furniture of the highest quality and earned an international reputation.

As a [Republican](#) ^[7] White was active in local political affairs and a member of the school board; he was a director of the [State Fair](#) ^[8] and helped organize the Mebane tobacco market. A member of the [Presbyterian church](#) ^[9], he was involved in its work. White never married. The White Furniture Company ceased operations in 1994.

References:

Greensboro Daily News, 31 Mar. 1935 (portrait).

Raleigh News and Observer, 30 Mar. 1936.

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Additional Resources:

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"William E. White." *Greensboro Daily News*, March 31, 1935. D-7.

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