

Hiram Krum

March 8, 1819-July 28, 1903

Plot 7 Lot 16

Hiram Krum was born on March 8, 1819 in Middleburg, Schoharie County, New York. His father was Judge Jonas Krum, his mother Katherine De Witt. Katherine died while Hiram was still a young boy. In 1833, Judge Krum remarried and he and his new wife, Mary Bixby, gave birth to a son Hobart. Hobart received a fine education and in adulthood, served as a New York State Senator.

Unlike his brother who was given a privileged upbringing, Hiram was apprenticed at a young age to learn the art of piano case building. Learning to construct these large, ornate pieces of furniture taught him much about carpentry and after a few years, he left the piano factory to work as a construction worker where he specialized in joining and planing work.

Hiram met and married Delia Maria Hager of North Blenheim, New York. Married in 1846, the couple had four children: Arthur in 1846, Albin in 1848, Gertrude and Pamela in 1851. Seeking the opportunities available in the bustling Village of Glens Falls, the family relocated in 1855.

Hiram opened a piano factory on the corner of Warren and Lime (now Fredella Avenue) Streets. Through, Henry Van Dusen, an agent in Saratoga Springs, Hiram did a brisk business selling pianos to the wealthy that lived there year round as well as to the rich summer visitors. The pianos were made of rosewood and custom built six inches wider than any pianos made in the USA. The business was quite successful, and Hiram added employees to keep up with the demand.

In 1861, the family was saddened by the death of daughter Pamela at the age of 9. They persevered, and by 1865, Hiram replaced their modest home on the corner of Oak and Warren Streets with a grand new home on the same site. The family continued to prosper until January 29, 1867, when tragedy struck again. Their son, Arthur Dewitt Krum died before his 21st birthday.

As a contractor, Hiram constructed many of the finest buildings in Glens Falls. His company built The Rockwell House, The American House on the northern corner of Glen and South Streets, the Halsey Wing Home, the Leroy Wing Home, homes for Leonard Mac Donald, Jerome Lapham and Dr. Charles Foster. He was part of the team that built the Fort William Henry Hotel in Lake George.

In 1889, Hiram was awarded the contract to build the home of the Glens Falls Insurance Company on Glen Street. At the time of its construction, the estimated cost was \$57,000, a sum so large that the contract was noted in newspapers all over New York State.

Hiram did not just build many of the homes that made Glens Falls a beautiful and successful Village, he also served as a village trustee and a member of the Boards of Health and Water, serving as its commissioner at the time when the water system was constructed.

His surviving children prospered as well. Albin was educated at the Glens Falls Academy, and then moved to New York where he married Ethelind Brainerd. He worked in the publishing industry until 1894 when he moved to Detroit, Michigan where he founded A.H. Krum and Company, a rubber footwear business which later became Detroit Rubber Company.

Gertrude married Jeremiah Finch, one of the owners of Finch Pruyn, and enjoyed a wealthy and prestigious life.

By 1900, Hiram had retired and he and Delia sold their home and lived in the large apartment house at 39 Bay Street, on the corner of Washington and Bay Streets. At the time of his death in 1908, he was praised as a “man of character who was trusted by his fellows.” Delia died in November of 1912, joining her husband in the family plot.

Prepared Evelyn Donahue from a theatrical script written by William Woodward for the Chapman Historical Museums fall Glens Falls Cemetery tour in 2014. Questions and comments should be directed to the Glens Falls City Historian at: City Hall 42 Ridge St. Glens Falls, NY historian@cityofglensfalls.com 518-761-3871.



Photo of Delia and Hiram Krum’s head stones in the Glens Falls Cemetery on Bay Street