



LOOKING

BACK

























LOOKING

WAY, WAY BACK

Brewster Carriages

Left photo ©Bryan French Photography



Brewster Carriage Company has followed a long and sometimes bumpy road. The Brewsters first came to America on the Mayflower by way of a William Brewster who led a group of Puritan separatists seeking religious freedom. Coincidentally, Chester Congdon was related to William Brewster.

Descendant of William, James Brewster first apprenticed with a carriage manufacturer then began building his own quality carriages in Connecticut in 1810. Over the years, the Brewster family had various partners in the company, but has, for the most part, always retained the Brewster name, a name that always meant the very highest of quality.



In 1827, Brewster opened a branch in New York City. In 1839, J. B. Brewster joined his father, James, in the company now called Brewster & Son. Sadly, J. B. never had his father's strong work ethic or his careful way with money. Fortunately, James' other son, Henry, had a better business acumen. In 1855, he and a partner opened Brewster & Lawrence in New York. In 1878, Henry received top honors at the Paris Exposition and is believed to be responsible for opening the European market for American carriage manufacturers.

Henry's son Willie began working as a laborer in the Connecticut shop in 1883 and attended the Alfred DuPont School for Carriage Draftsmen in Paris in 1885. Henry died two years later, but Willie carried on his father's excellence and took home numerous medals from the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

Brewster & Company, as the company was called under Willie's ownership, made carriages for America's wealthiest families. The Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Astor's and other elite families all had Brewster carriages, usually with their own unique color.



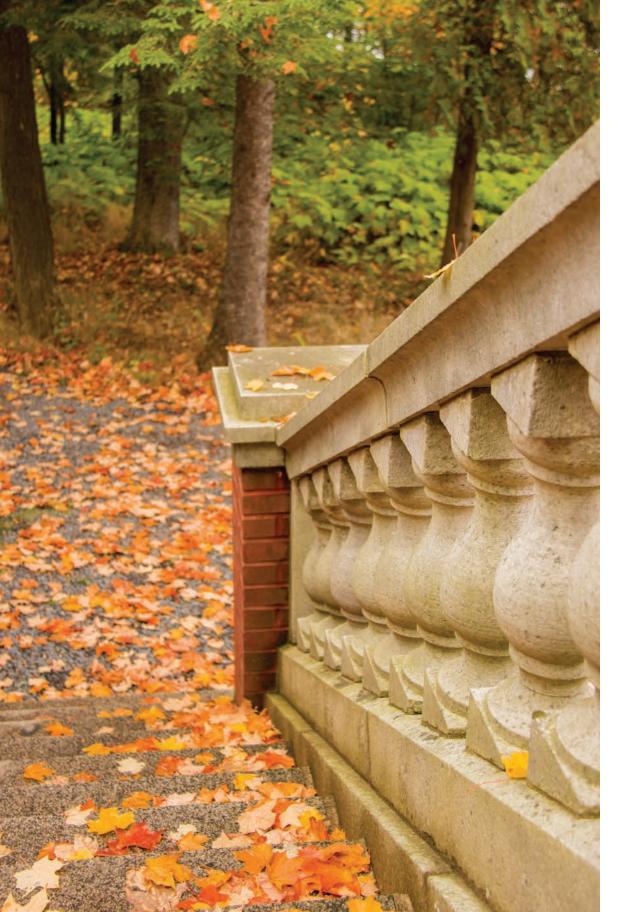
The Congdon's owned four Brewster's which can still be seen on the Nooks & Crannies Tour today. The smallest of the Congdon carriages is a two-passenger phaeton (named for Greek God Helios' son), meant to be driven by the owner, not a coachman, and is perfect for an outing on a sunny day.

The next, a panel boot Victoria, is often referred to as the preferred carriage of women. The front seat allows for a coachman, and the open seating in back offers a way for women to show off their elegant clothing. It's unknown if that is why it was purchased by the Congdons, but one can certainly imagine daughters Marjorie, Helen and Elisabeth wearing their finery and attending lavish summer parties in Duluth.



The first of two enclosed carriages is the Brewster Brougham. With a seat in front for the coachman, the passengers sit in an enclosed cab expertly upholstered in the dark green Brewster carriages are best known for. This carriage has windows that raise and lower and has a speaking tube so that the passengers can speak to the coachman.

The last, but largest, of the Congdons' Brewster carriages, is called a Depot Wagon. It seats four in the enclosed cab and even offers the driver a roof to keep the rain off. This one also has a speaking tube, movable windows, and, in the front, a folded weather-proof cover that could be drawn up over the coachman's knees.



LOOKING

FORWARD



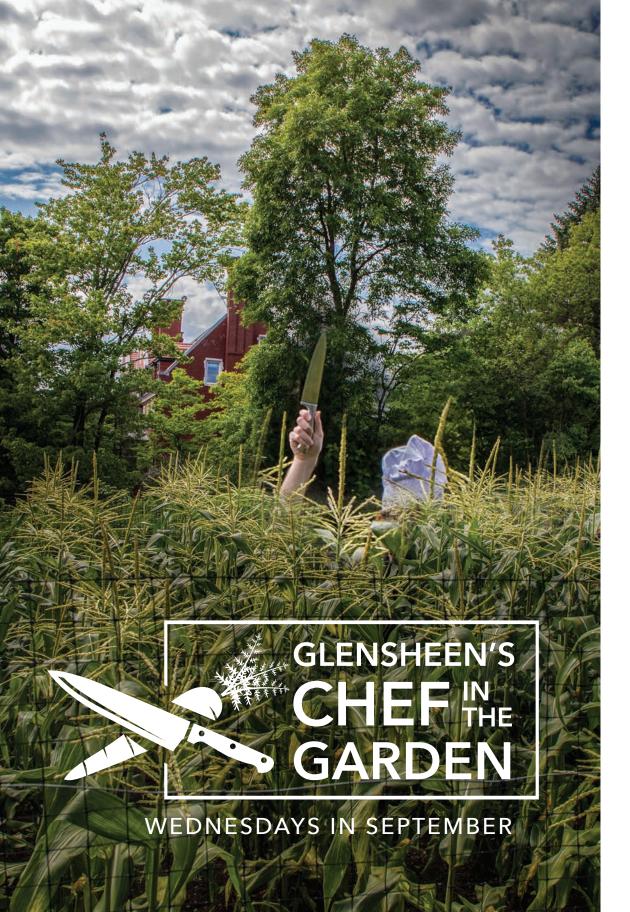












EVENTS

September

Chef in the Garden | Free Wednesday Night Event

October

Whiskey Wednesdays | Free Wednesday Night Event Night at the Museum (Free) | 10-4-18

November

Secrets of Glensheen | Free Wednesday Night Event Veterans Day (Free Classic Tours for veterans) | 11-11-18 Christmas Tours Begin (Every tour is a Christmas tour!) | 11-17-18 Candlelight Christmas Tours Begin (Free) | 11-23-18

December

Wreath Making | Free Wednesday Night Event Winter Village | 12-1-18 & 12-2-18

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3300 London Road, Duluth, MN 55804 218.726.8910 | 888.454.GLEN | info@glensheen.org | glensheen.org