Hammond Township

HERBERT AND HANNAH AVERY

Herbert Ernest Avery was born April 18, 1867 at Cooperstown, New York, youngest of three children of Delos Lucian Avery and Julieta Richardson (had a brother Alva and sister Ida). At eighteen he started working for the gentry in New York City. These people were noted English men and women, among whom were Stanford White, Devreau Emmett and George Hyde Clark. Several of these people went down with the Titanic when it was making its maiden voyage. They were related to the Stewarts of England, through marriage.

While employed as "Head Coachman" at these homes, Herbert met Hannah Elizabeth Lindberg who was employed by Mrs. Emmett, sister of Stanford White, designer of "Madison Square Gardens".

Hannah was born January 10, 1865 in Sweden and came across the ocean when twenty years old. She could not speak English but learned quickly. She was the youngest of nine children, four other girls and four boys.

Herbert and Hannah were married April 5, 1893 in New York City and soon after moved to Stockton, Illinois.

Herbert was employed at various occupations which included caretaker of "Oakdale Camp" grounds near South Freeport, Illinois. Many people came there from all over the United States. Several moves were made during their stay in Illinois. All seven children were born in that area, three girls and four boys: Grace, Clyde, Paul, Florence, Carl, Arthur and Ann (twins).

In 1913 they decided they wanted a farm of their own so they purchased one in Hammond Township, Polk county. They moved by train from Illinois in March. They were greeted at Beltrami by new neighbors, taken to their home in a jumper (home built on runners) they were pulled by two Montana mustangs and they followed no roads, just cut across country.

Crops were mostly wheat, flax, and corn. Herbert had brought seed corn from Illinois, first of its kind. They turned out a very good crop as it was a long growing season.

A "Booster Farmer's Club" was organized, with meetings once a month, programs, dinners, arts and crafts and produce displayed, then judged with prizes awarded.

In 1915 Herbert was school director of district 220. Five of the Avery's were attending at that time.

The 1918 flu epidemic came, people nursed and helped care for many, near and far; many died, although others lived because of care and concern of neighbors and friends. Neighborliness and good deeds were a part of rural living.

There was Sunday school and church every week with dedicated parents seeing that all had religious contacts and training.

The Averys lived in the Crookston vicinity until Hannah's death, July 24, 1947; there Herbert made his home with his daughters, Grace of here, and Ann of Minot, North Dakota. He died May, 1949.

Herbert and Hannah's children are Grace Avery Newhouse, homemaker and housewife, born February 1, 1894; Clyde Herbert Avery, salesman, born January 19, 1896; Paul Richardson Avery, farmer, born January 18, 1898; Florence Avery Davis, teacher, born August 28, 1899; Carl Frederic Avery, tool maker, born June 20, 1901; Arthur William Avery, mechanic, born May 12, 1903; Ann Avery Schunk, teacher, born May 12, 1903.

JAMES DEWAR

James Dewar, born in Perth, Scotland January 16, 1846 sailed to Canada with his family on the "Glenmanna" at the age of eight. Hours of dread and pain were endured during the roar of wind storms, causing fear of shipwreck, during the 58-day trip. This trip was made during the Crimean War, in which an uncle, Robert Dewar was killed. A cholera epidemic on board killed all infants, except his infant sister, Kittle, who died upon arrival in Canada. After a brief stay in Montreal, the family traveled to Trempealeau, Wisconsin.

At nineteen Mr. Dewar enlisted for duty in the Civil War but was rejected because his weight was under one hundred pounds. He subsequently joined bridge builders going to Vicksburg, and later was bookkeeper on a cotton plantation at Covington, Tennessee.

Mr. Dewar returned to Wisconsin in 1868 and married Wilhelmina Dopp and to them one son, John Dopp Dewar, former longtime resident of Beltrami, Minnesota was born. Following his wife's death, he came to Crookston in 1882. In 1883 he married Agnes Valance Samson, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Samson (Annie Dewar), her brother and his sister, in Hammond Township. The Dewars also settled in Hammond, taking part of their farm as a tree claim.

District 220 school house, commonly called the Dewar School, was built in 1895 on land donated by the pioneer farmer, James Dewar. His nephew, Wallace J. Samson, was the first teacher. Dewar was one of the first school officers, along with his cousin, William Rattray, and H. A. Tofsel. Dewar served as school officer many years and as chairman of supervisors for Hammond Township for over forty-five years. For several decades, Sunday school was conducted in the Dewar School to serve the area. "Grandpa" Dewar, as he was affectionately called by many, served as superintendent and his wife as a teacher. Traditionally, the Fourth of July community picnics were held at the Dewar homestead.

On the windswept prairie, the Dewars endured three three-day blizzards one winter alone, 1896-7. On the third day of an extremely severe blizzard, Mr. Dewar made his way to the barn with the use of a long rope kept handy for that purpose. With a bobsled a trip to Crookston for supplies took three to four hours each way. Ten 100-pound sacks of flour were purchased each fall and shared with neighbors when necessary.

Children of James and Agnes Dewar were William Samson (1884-1911), Walter James (1886-1967), Mrs. C. R. Emerson (Ruby), Virginia, Minnesota. Mrs. E. E. Luhman (Annie Laurie), Foston, and Esther Dewar of Minneapolis.