

Register of the

Avery Family Papers

(Collection 007)

Adventist Heritage Center
James White Library
Andrews University
1979

Avery Family Papers (Collection 007)

Biographical Information:

George Royal Avery was born to a farming family in a log cabin in Locke Township, Ingham County, Michigan, April 21, 1855. A second generation Adventist, his parents had been encouraged in their religious beliefs by such Adventist pioneers as M. E. Cornell and James and Ellen White.

When George was 14, he began keeping a diary which he kept with varying degrees of regularity and emphasis for 60 years. From helping on the family farm, his career led to five years of study at Battle Creek College, canvassing, school teaching and then back to market gardening. Of particular interest among his papers are his descriptions of and correspondence with well known pioneer Adventist educator, G. H. Bell. With this beloved teacher, George shared special interests in writing and in botany.

In 1892 George was married to Lillie Hough by Uriah Smith. They had five children: Vesta Dawn (b. 1893), Bethel Iva (b. 1897), Beulah Dale (b. 1899), Loren (b. 1908), and Lila (b. 1913). The last 33 years of his life, George and Lillie lived in Cedar Lake, Michigan, where he operated the Golden Rule Gardens. He died in Lansing, Michigan, on March 2, 1935.

Scope:

The Avery Family papers collection contains correspondence, diaries, financial records, student papers, teaching plans, poetry, books, miscellaneous items, and his herbarium. With the agreement of the donor, the collection of dried plants (contained in three volumes) was placed in the working herbarium of the Biology Department of Andrews University for preservation.

Arrangement:

The folders and volumes are numbered on the basis of topical and chronological sequence.

Extent

8 boxes [4.17 linear feet]

Provenance:

The Avery Family Papers were given to the Adventist Heritage Center in the James White Library, Andrews University on February 22, 1977, by Mrs. Vesta Avery Keeney, daughter of George Royal Avery. These papers were in George Royal Avery's possession at the time of his death in 1935.

Use:

All users of this collection will be required to complete the “Application to Use Unpublished Records,” and to observe the regulations specified in the “Patron Agreement” and in the “Researcher’s Code of Conduct.” All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection: Box _____, folder _____, Avery Family Papers (collection 7), Adventist Heritage Center, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

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Avery Family Papers (Collection 007)

I. Correspondence [George Royal Avery and other family members]

Bx 1 fld 1	Incomplete and n.d. letters. 17 letters
Bx 1 fld 2	1829 to 1862. 40 letters
Bx 1 fld 3	1863 to 1870. 26 letters
Bx 1 fld 4	1871 to 1874. 19 letters
Bx 1 fld 5	1875. 42 letters
Bx 1 fld 6	1876, Jan to May. 47 letters
Bx 1 fld 7	1876, Jun to Dec. 49 letters
Bx 1 fld 8	1877. 69 letters
Bx 1 fld 9	1878. 39 letters
Bx 1 fld 10	1879. 74 letters
Bx 1 fld 11	1880, Jan to Jun. 53 letters
Bx 1 fld 12	1880, Jul to Dec. 72 letters
Bx 2 fld 1	1881. 124 letters
Bx 2 fld 2	1882. 60 letters
Bx 2 fld 3	1883. 33 letters
Bx 2 fld 4	1884. 97 letters
Bx 2 fld 5	1885. 45 letters
Bx 2 fld 6	1886. 59 letters
Bx 2 fld 7	1887. 60 letters
Bx 2 fld 8	1888. 90 letters
Bx 3 fld 1	1889. 63 letters
Bx 3 fld 2	1890. 71 letters
Bx 3 fld 3	1891, Jan to Jun . 38 letters
Bx 3 fld 4	1891, Jul to Dec. 40 letters
Bx 3 fld 5	1892, Jan to Feb. 28 letters
Bx 3 fld 6	1892, Mar to Dec. 31 letters
Bx 3 fld 7	1893. 32 letters
Bx 3 fld 8	1894. 33 letters
Bx 3 fld 9	1895. 30 letters
Bx 3 fld 10	1896. 20 letters
Bx 3 fld 11	1897. 5 letters
Bx 3 fld 12	1898. 16 letters
Bx 3 fld 13	1899. 10 letters
Bx 4 fld 1	1900 to 1902. 18 letters (no 1903 to 1905 letters)
Bx 4 fld 2	1906 to 1910. 20 letters
Bx 4 fld 3	1911 to 1934. 72 letters
Bx 4 fld 4	Correspondence of Vesta Avery. 3 letters

II. Miscellaneous Documents [Biographical, notes, poems, photographs, etc.]

Bx 4 fld 5	Articles of agreement, receipts, etc.
Bx 4 fld 6	Avery, Albert, life story
Bx 4 fld 7	Avery, G. R., gardener and businessman
Bx 4 fld 8	Avery, G. R., student
Bx 4 fld 9	Avery, G. R., teacher (public school)
Bx 4 fld 9a	Avery, G. R., teacher (public school)
Bx 4 fld 10	Avery, G. R., writer
Bx 4 fld 10a	Avery, G. R., writer: educational methods of G. H. Bell by his pupil, G. R. Avery
Bx 4 fld 11	Avery, family history
Oversize Env	Marriage Certificate of George R. Avery and Lillie M. Hough
Bx 4 fld 12	Avery, Lillie Hough, Dodge School report
Bx 5 fld 1	Battle Creek College
Bx 5 fld 2	Bell, G. H., <i>The Fireside Teacher</i>
Bx 5 fld 3	History, United States
Bx 5 fld 4	Locke Literary Family
Bx 5 fld 4a	Locke Singing School
Bx 5 fld 5	Obituaries
Bx 5 fld 6	Photographs
Bx 5 fld 7	Poems by L. D. Avery, etc.
Bx 5 fld 8	Miscellaneous

III. Diaries, 1869 to 1930 (56 vols.) [and personal gardening notes]**A. George Royal Avery Diaries, 1869 to 1930 (Less regular in later years)****1. Local School and Farm Work**

Bx 5 vol 1 Apr 21, 1869 to Jan 27, 1870

Bx 5 vol 2 Jan 1, 1870 to Apr 28, 1871

Bx 5 vol 3 Apr 29, 1871 to Apr 3, 1872

Bx 5 vol 4 Apr 4, 1872 to Apr 29, 1873

Bx 5 vol 5 Apr 30 to Nov 30, 1873

Bx 5 vol 6 Dec 3 to 30, 1873

Bx 5 vol 7 Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1874 (Leaves Dec 31 for Battle Creek)

2. Battle Creek Studies

Bx 5 vol 8 Jan 1 to Dec 30, 1875. Battle Creek first three months, then home.

Bx 5 vol 9 Jan 1 to Mar 27, 1876

Bx 5 vol 10 Mar 29 to Jun 27, 1876

Bx 5 vol 11 Jan 1 to Nov 19, 1877. Battle Creek; some teaching notes from 1878.

3. Canvassing in Iowa

Bx 5 vol 12 Jan 4 to Feb 8, 1881. Canvassing; this book previously a canvassing account book of Jun 22, 1880 to Feb 7, 1881; one 1882 teaching entry.

Bx 5 vol 13 Feb. 21 to Apr 21, 1881. Canvassing; also beginning teaching.

4. Teaching in Iowa and Michigan

Bx 5 vol 14 Apr 3 to 4, 1882. Train trip from Iowa to Michigan.

Bx 5 vol 15 Apr 3, Nov 27 to Dec 3, 1882. More of train trip from Iowa to Michigan, teaching; father getting worse; teaching notes from 1892.

Bx 5 vol 16 Mar 1 to Apr 27, 1883. Back in Michigan, father died; active in the "Literary"; comical program penciled in the back.

Bx 5 vol 17 Mar 6, 1884. Visit to Battle Creek and tour of city; quotes; some expense records.

Bx 6 vol 18 Jun 1 to 26, 1884. Teaching; observations of nature.

5. Farming at home in Michigan

Bx 6 vol 19 Nov 1, 1884 to Apr 18, 1885. Farm work; organizing a Sunday school.

Bx 6 vol 20 Jan 3 to Jul 24, 1897. Garden journal, garden plans for 1899 to 1900.

6. Golden Rule Garden Notes

Bx 6 vol 21 Jan 31 to Mar 13, 1912

Bx 6 vol 22 Apr 16, 17, 1912

Bx 6 vol 23 Feb 16, 22, 1913. Garden notes: "To my Flower Loving Friends"

Bx 6 vol 24 Jul 1 to Nov 19, 1914

Bx 6 vol 25 Feb 18 to Mar 3, 1915. Includes rough copies of letters sent in back

Bx 6 vol 26 Mar 4 to Apr 26, 1915. Includes bird notes and notes on Sabbath school work

Bx 6 vol 27 Apr 26 to Jun 26, 1915

Bx 6 vol 28 Jun 27 to Jul 27, 1915. Includes poems for seed packages

Bx 6 vol 29 Nov 1, 1915 to Jan 30, 1916 and Jan 1 to Jan 23, 1917

Bx 6 vol 30 Feb 15, 1916. Includes observations of children

Bx 6 vol 31 Oct 1, 1916 to Jan 31, 1917
Bx 6 vol 32 May 29 to Jul 1, 1917
Bx 6 vol 33 Feb 13 to 24, 1919
Bx 6 vol 34 Jan 23 to Mar 2, 1921
Bx 6 vol 35 Apr 1 to 21, 1921
Bx 6 vol 36 Apr 22 to May 17, 1921
Bx 6 vol 37 May 25 to Jun 28, 1921
Bx 6 vol 38 1927. Poem marked 1892; rough copy of
letter to Mrs. Berta Macomber, Swarty
Creek, Michigan
Bx 6 vol 39 1930

B. Albert Avery Diaries, 1870 to 1875

Bx 6 vol 4 Jul 1 to Sep 3, 1870
Bx 6 vol 41 Dec 18, 1870 to Jan 23, 1871
Bx 6 vol 42 Sep 5 to Dec 8, 1870 and Jan 24 to Mar 12,
1871
Bx 6 vol 43 Mar 17 to Sep 2, 1871
Bx 6 vol 44 Jun 1, 1874 to Nov 3, 1875

C. Jonas Malcome Avery Diaries, 1882 to 1898

Bx 7 vol 45 Mar 14, 1882 to Aug 31, 1888
Bx 7 vol 46 Sep 1, 1888 to May 6, 1898

D. Rebecca Macomber Avery Diaries, 1870 to 1875

Bx 7 vol 47 Apr 24 to Jun 28, 1870
Bx 7 vol 48 Jun 29 to Oct 2, 1870
Bx 7 vol 49 Oct 3 to Nov 7, 1870
Bx 7 vol 50 Nov 7, 1870 to Jan 19, 1871
Bx 7 vol 51 Jan 20 to Apr 3, 1871
Bx 7 vol 52 Apr 4 to May 29, 1871
Bx 7 vol 53 Jul 4, 1871 to Jan 30, 1873
Bx 7 vol 54 Jul 4, 1871 to Jan 30, 1873
Bx 7 vol 55 Feb 1 to Mar 4, 1873
Bx 7 vol 56 Apr 6, 1873 to Jan 1, 1875

E. Vesta Avery-Keeney

Bx 7 fld 57 The Rich Poor Man. (Section II: interpages)
Pages 1 to 20, 146 to 208.

IV. Financial Records, 1869 to 1930 (19 volumes)A. George Royal Avery Financial Records, 1876 to 1930 (See also back of diaries for 1870 to 1881)

- Bx 8 vol 1 Sep to Nov 1876: eating club accounts
- Bx 8 vol 2 Oct 1876 to Jan. 1877: eating club accounts
- Bx 8 vol 3 Jan to Mar 1877: eating club accounts
- Bx 8 vol 4 1882 to 1888: farm expenses with mother
- Bx 8 vol 5 1883 to 1886: personal expenses (?)
- Bx 8 vol 6 1888: *Fireside Teacher* and other subscriptions sold
- Bx 8 vol 7 1888 to 1889: *Fireside Teacher* subscribers
- Bx 8 vol 8 Jan 1, 1902: debts; Jan. 1903: expenses; some Sabbath School notes
- Bx 8 vol 9 1905: Garden orders; miscellaneous meeting notes
- Bx 8 vol 10 Jul to Nov 1911: garden orders; Jul to Dec 1911: garden expenses
- Bx 8 vol 11 1914: Golden Rule Garden income and expenses
- Bx 8 vol 12 Mar 29 to Jun 14, 1915: garden sales; a few diary type notes
- Bx 8 vol 13 Aug 1 to Oct 31, 1916: garden sales
- Bx 8 vol 14 1921: plant order book
- Bx 8 vol 15 Feb to May, Oct 1928: garden sales

B. Albert Avery Financial Records

- Bx 8 vol 16 Jan 5, 1869 to Mar 28, 1872; Mar to May 3, 1873
- Bx 8 vol 17 Mar 28, 1872 to 1879: very scanty
- Bx 8 vol 18 Nov 28, 1872 to Dec 6, 1875: Account with Esther P. Cole, "adopted daughter"
- Bx 8 vol 19 1874: List of subscribers
- Bx 8 vol 20 Oct 1875 to 1878: very scanty

V. Study/Teaching Notes (6 volumes)A. George Royal Avery Study/Teaching Notes

- Bx 8 vol 21 1876: botany, Battle Creek College
- Bx 8 vol 22 1877: botany, Battle Creek College
- Bx 8 vol 23 Apr 20 to May 7, 1879: grammar, geography, state education laws
- Bx 8 vol 24 1882 to 1885: plant record, scanty
- Bx 8 vol 25 1882, 1883: teaching notes (?)

B. Albert Avery Study/Teaching Notes

- Bx 8 vol 26 n.d.: topical Bible reference lists

VI. Books

Box 9

Bell, Goodloe Harper. *Bible Lessons No. Four.* Battle Creek, MI: Review and Herald Publishing Association.

_____. *Bible Lessons No. Six.* Battle Creek, MI: Review and Herald Publishing Association.

Cassino, Samuel E., compiler. *The International Scientist's Directory.* Boston: S. E. Cassino & Co., 1883.

Gray, Asa. *Gray's School and Field Botany, Revised Lessons.* 1875 to 1880.

_____. *Introduction to Structural and Systematic Botany,* 5th and revised ed. N.Y.: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor, & Co., 1875.

_____. *Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States,* 5th ed. N. Y.: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor, & Co., 1872.

Phelps, Almira H. Lincoln. *Familiar Lectures on Botany.* N.Y.: Huntington and Savage, 1847.

Transferred Out

Bell, G.H., ed. *The Fireside Teacher,* Vol, I. Battle Creek, Mich.: The Fireside Teacher Co., 1887.

Miller, Eli B. and Eva A. *First Lessons in the Old Testament.* Battle Creek, Mich.: College Press, 1889.

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