

Register of

# **Avery Family Papers**

(Collection 7)

Adventist Heritage Center  
James White Library  
Andrews University  
1979

## **Avery Family Papers (Collection 7)**

### **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.

### **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All users of this collection will be required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulations specified in the "Patron Agreement" and in the "Researcher's Code of Conduct."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.

## Inventory

### I. Correspondence of George Royal Avery and other family members

Bx 1 fld 1 Incomplete and n.d. letters. 17 letters  
Bx 1 fld 2 1829-1862. 40 letters  
Bx 1 fld 3 1863-1870. 26 letters  
Bx 1 fld 4 1871-1874. 19 letters  
Bx 1 fld 5 1875. 42 letters  
Bx 1 fld 6 1876, Jan-May. 47 letters  
Bx 1 fld 7 1876, June-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-June. 53 letters  
Bx 1 fld 12 1880, July-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-June. 38 letters  
Bx 3 fld 4 1891, July-Dec. 40 letters  
Bx 3 fld 5 1892, Jan-Feb. 28 letters  
Bx 3 fld 6 1892, Mar-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 1900-1902. 18 letters (no 1903-1905 letters)  
Bx 4 fld 2 1906-1910. 20 letters  
Bx 4 fld 3 1911-1934. 72 letters  
Bx 4 fld 4 Correspondence of Vesta Avery. 3 letters

## II. 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., gardner 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 1 Avery, family history
- Bx 4 fld 12 Avery, Lillie Hough, Dodge School report
- Bx 5 fld 1 Battle Creek College
- Bx 5 fld 2 Bell, G. H., The Fireside Teacher
- 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. AVERY FAMILY DIARIES, 1869-1930 (56 vols.)

### A. George Royal Avery Diaries, 1869-1930 (Less regular in later years)

#### 1. Local School and Farm Work

- Bx 5 vol 1 Apr. 21, 1869-Jan. 27, 1870
- Bx 5 vol 2 Jan. 1, 1870-Apr. 28, 1871
- Bx 5 vol 3 Apr. 29, 1871-Apr. 3, 1872
- Bx 5 vol 4 Apr. 4, 1872-Apr. 29, 1873
- Bx 5 vol 5 Apr. 30-Nov. 30, 1873
- Bx 5 vol 6 Dec. 3-30, 1873
- Bx 5 vol 7 Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1874 (Leaves Dec. 31 for Battle Creek)

#### 2. Battle Creek Studies

- Bx 5 vol 8 Jan. 1-Dec. 30, 1875. Battle Creek first three months, then home.
- Bx 5 vol 9 Jan. 1-Mar. 27, 1876
- Bx 5 vol 10 Mar. 29-June 27, 1876
- Bx 5 vol 11 Jan. 1-Nov. 19, 1877. Battle Creek; some teaching notes from 1878.

## 3. Canvassing in Iowa

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

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

## 4. Teaching in Iowa and Michigan

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

Bx 5 vol 15 Apr. 3, Nov. 27-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-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 5 vol 18 June 1-26m 1884. Teaching; observations of nature.

## 5. Farming at home in Michigan

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

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

## 6. Golden Rule Garden Notes

Bx 6 vol 21 Jan. 31-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 July 1-Nov. 19, 1914

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

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

Bx 6 vol 27 Apr. 26-June 26, 1915

Bx 6 vol 28 June 27-July 27, 1915. Includes poems for seed packages

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

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

Bx 6 vol 31 Oct. 1, 1916-Jan. 31, 1917

Bx 6 vol 32 May 29-July 1, 1917

Bx 6 vol 33 Feb. 13-24, 1919

Bx 6 vol 34 Jan. 23-Mar. 2, 1921

- Bx 6 vol 35 Apr. 1-21, 1921
- Bx 6 vol 36 Apr. 22-May 17, 1921
- Bx 6 vol 37 May 25-June 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, 1870-1875

- Bx 6 vol 4 July 1-Sept. 3, 1870
- Bx 6 vol 41 Dec. 18, 1870-Jan. 23, 1871
- Bx 6 vol 42 Sept. 5-Dec. 8, 1870 and Jan. 24-Mar. 12, 1871
- Bx 6 vol 43 Mar. 17-Sept. 2, 1871
- Bx 6 vol 44 June 1, 1874-Nov. 3, 1875

C. Jonas Malcome Avery Diaries, 1882-1898

- Bx 7 vol 45 Mar. 14, 1882-Aug. 31, 1888
- Bx 7 vol 46 Sept. 1, 1888-May 6, 1898

D. Rebecca Macomber Avery Diaries, 1870-1875

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

E. Vesta Keeney (Born Avery)

- Bx 7 vol 57 The Rich Poor Man. (Section II: interpages) 1-20,  
146-208.

IV. AVERY FAMILY FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1869-1930 (19 vols.)

A. George Royal Avery Financial Records, 1876-1930 (See also back of diaries for 1870-1881)

- Bx 8 vol 1 Sept.-Nov. 1876: eating club accounts
- Bx 8 vol 2 Oct. 1876-Jan. 1877: eating club accounts
- Bx 8 vol 3 Jan.-Mar. 1877: eating club accounts
- Bx 8 vol 4 1882-1888: farm expenses with mother
- Bx 8 vol 5 1883-1886: personal expenses (?)

- Bx 8 vol 6 1888: Fireside Teacher and other subscriptions sold
- Bx 8 vol 7 1888-1889: 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 July-Nov. 1911: garden orders; July-Dec.1911:  
garden expenses
- Bx 8 vol 11 1914: Golden Rule Garden income and expenses
- Bx 8 vol 12 Mar. 29-June 14, 1915: garden sales; a few diary  
type notes
- Bx 8 vol 13 Aug. 1-Oct. 31, 1916: garden sales
- Bx 8 vol 14 1921: plant order book
- Bx 8 vol 15 Feb.-May, Oct. 1928: garden sales

B. Albert Avery Financial Records

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

V. AVERY FAMILY STUDY/TEACHING NOTES (6 vols.)

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-May 7, 1879: grammar, geography,  
state education laws
- Bx 8 vol 24 1882-1885: 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

Oversize Marriage Certificate of George R. Avery and Lillie M. Hough

VI. Books

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

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. 1875-1880.

\_\_\_\_\_. 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.

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

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