

GUIDE TO THE AVERY FAMILY PAPERS

Papers of farmer James Dean Avery (1848-1922) of Buckland, Mass., and members of his immediate family. Avery, the son of David and Prudence Dean Avery, was known as a progressive farmer, lumberman, and trusted local and county official who devoted much of his life to developing a strain of giant oxen. He married Emma Packard of East Charlemont in 1873; their son, Francis Dean Avery was born in 1876. Avery re-married in 1902, taking Maria M. Joselyn of Conway, Mass., as his wife.

Francis Dean Avery worked on the farm with his father, raising and showing giant oxen. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was graduated in 1902. After working briefly for the New York Central Railroad, he moved to Greenfield and pursued a career as a civil engineer. The successor of his firm, Roberge Associates, still operates today (2007) in Greenfield. In 1905, Avery married Mabelle Johnson (b. 1881) of Shelburne, Mass.

CONTAINER LIST:

James Dean Avery, 1848-1922

Appraisal of the Estate of Bartlett Ballard (Avery's uncle), 1872 - 5pp. Farm animals, household goods, equipment, timber, cash, "Notes and Interest" (with names), real estate.

Notebook of charges for settling the estate of Lucretia Ballard (Avery's aunt), July 2, 1878 - Feb. 21, 1881. Later entries, May 31-Aug 1, 1889. Records receipt of funds and disbursements to legatees.

Diaries 1880: Farm work; lumber, lambing, shearing (for himself and others), peeling bark.
1884: Farm work; notes at end on his rams.
1885: Farm work; lambing, lumber. Notes on "town teams," payment for working his teams. Includes lumber accounts.
1887: No daily entries. Memoranda on appraising sheep. Cash accounts.
1889: Farm work; lambing. Mentions attending meetings of the Deerfield Valley Agricultural Society.

Records of land transactions, 1873-1923 - 5 pp.

List of property granted to James D. Avery by deed book number and page. First entry is Lucretia Ballard, 8/23/73, "Home Farm."

Notebook recording purchases of cattle, 1891-94.

Account books dealing with "giant" oxen
1895; 1897-98: Expenses for exhibiting in Canada, Vermont, Maryland,
Pennsylvania.
1901: Expenses for "Jerry" the giant ox.

Folder of biographical material.

Maria Joselyn Avery, b. 1866 (the 2nd. Mrs. James D. Avery)

Diary 1910: (Jan. 1-July 1) Records weather, household events and local news. Includes household accounts and a list of the books she read.

Francis Dean Avery, 1876-1940 (son, James D. & Emma J. Packard Avery)

Diaries 1896-97: Farming; mentions work with father and showing "giant" oxen.
903-6, 1908: Largely pertaining to Franklin County Commissioners meetings.
copies of 2 scrapbooks relating to giant oxen, 1894-98; 1898-1907, with later additions.

Carolyn Avery c. 1912- (dau., Francis D. Avery and Mabelle Johnson Avery)

Notebook/scrapbook, 1927

Kept at Greenfield High School for "Civics of the U.S" class. Includes clippings from Greenfield newspapers and analysis of local government. Second half of the notebook largely pertains to American wars.

NOT KEPT WITH PAPERS:

Two oversize scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, correspondence, and printed fliers relating to giant oxen compiled by Francis D. Avery, 1894-1902. Gift of Prudence Carnahan. (Scrapbooks Coll.)