

THE GRAY FAMILY

Benjamin Gray was born in England in 1700. He came to this country about 1722 with his wife Sarah Gray. The deed to marshland acreage in Salem, Mass., was signed by him in 1727. His son William Gray was born in 1727. To him a son John Gray was born in 1761. John Gray married Elizabeth Archer. Their son William Augustus Gray was born in Salem in 1814.

William Gray moved to Lake County, Ill., in 1842. He was one of the first settlers of that area, which now bears his name and is called "Grayslake." His first wife, whom he married in 1842, was Lucy A. Dodge, a direct descendant of Governor William Bradford, the early settler of Plymouth Colony. She died after the birth of their only son, William B.D. Gray, who became a celebrated evangelist and one of the founders of Yankton College in South Dakota. William A. Gray was a penmanship teacher and post office clerk, and he assisted in journalistic work. Later he owned a tea store in Waukegan, Ill. He married Sarah Alvord in 1847. To them were born three children: Charles T. in 1850, Sarah Elizabeth in 1853, and George Edward in 1860.

Charles Gray married Minerva Houghton. They and their children came to Appleton, Minn., in 1879 and lived in the village. He initiated the Riverside Press, which later became the Appleton Press. Later the family moved to Watertown, South Dakota, where he was a mail clerk on the Great Northern Railroad.

George Edward Gray came to Appleton in 1878 and lived with his uncle Wolcott Alvord for two years. In 1880 he settled on homestead acreage four miles west of Appleton. He sent for his father, mother, and sister.

His father, William A. Gray, died in Appleton December, 1880, under distressing circumstances. As was his custom, he went into town on a Friday to assist his son Charles on the publication day of the Riverside Press. He started home on foot at 3:00 PM. Darkness came early because of a high wind that suddenly brought a blinding snowstorm. William lost his way and perished. He was found a half mile from home. Sarah Alvord Gray died in 1910. Sarah Elizabeth Gray died unmarried in 1937.

George Gray married Martha Wise in 1896. To them three daughters were born: an infant who died at birth in 1897, Virginia in 1899, and Dorothy in 1900. Besides farming, George Gray directed his interests toward sporting dogs. He became widely known as one of the best breeders and trainers, and his dogs won many awards in many parts of the country. Among his most famous dogs were Young Jingo, Pearls Dot, and Strideway.

Al Hochwalt, the dean of field trial correspondents at the time, wrote in The American Field magazine: "It was through George Gray that Appleton became a prominent place on the map of field trials, for many a great dog emanated from the Gray kennels. Back from the '80s, I know of many a dog he made famous. He also has been successful as a handler. He lived a full life and his memory will remain fresh in the minds and hearts of field trial devotees.:"

George Gray died in 1950, his wife Martha in 1967. Virginia Gray became a teacher and travelled extensively. She died unmarried in 1934. Dorothy pursued a career as a reader of dramatic art for two years. In 1926 she married Albert Vieg, also of Appleton. They resided in Pontiac, Mich., with their three daughters.

Dorothy died in Livonia, Mich., in December, 1985. She was preceded in death by Albert, who died in Pontiac in February, 1963.

Biographical Sketch for Edward Somerby Stebbins (1854-1934)

Edward Stebbins was born in Boston on February 9, 1854. He moved to Troy, New York, in 1868 and to Saratoga, New York, in 1870, where he worked with architect E.D. Harris and helped to supervise the construction of the Grand Union Hotel. He attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology until about 1876, worked briefly with McKim, Mead & White, then came to Minneapolis in 1877. He was a partner of George R. Mann, a former classmate at MIT, in 1878-1879, then established a private practice which lasted until 1913 when Robert Haxby entered the firm. In 1920 they were joined by Cyrus Bissell. This partnership remained intact until Stebbins' death in Minneapolis on March 3, 1934. The firm continued under the name Haxby, Bissell, Belair & Green after Stebbins' death.

Stebbins was the official architect of the Minneapolis Board of Education for more than 10 years, designing many of the city's educational facilities. Some of the schools he designed were: North High School; West High School (1906-1907); Clara Barton, Robert Fulton, Thomas Lowry, and Bryant Elementary Schools. Most of these have been demolished. Stebbins also created the plans for the Nicollet County Court House, St. Peter, Minnesota (1880-1881) with Edward Bassford of St. Paul; the Hutchinson, Minnesota, Public Library (1904); Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Minneapolis (1883); and the S.E. Davis residence, 2104 Kenwood Parkway, Minneapolis (1892), known to millions as the "Mary Tyler Moore house", after the popular television show of the early 1970s.

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