

WILLIAM AMERY

1831 - 1887

William Amery was born in Devonshire, England. He attended school at the Chumleigh Academy; there winning several prizes in Mathematics. At the age of 20 he left England by sailing vessel destined for St. Louis, Missouri to pursue his trade as a millwright. He traveled by a less frequented course, landing first in the Port of New Orleans. There, he boarded a river boat going up the Mississippi. To escape a yellow fever epidemic, then raging in St. Louis, he continued as far as he could up the river, landing in Stillwater in ¹⁸⁴⁹1851.

In 1852 William Amery preempted tracts of land in Polk County Wisconsin, some near St. Croix Falls. It was there that he took his bride, Sarah Hackett, born in County Clare, Ireland of English ancestry. She had reached Stillwater, Minnesota in 1852. They were married in Stillwater in 1855.

It was for William Amery in 1887 that Amery, Wisconsin, then a village now a city, the largest in Polk County, was named. The reason given for the choice; "because of his prominence and progressiveness."

William Amery homesteaded a farm near the St. Croix River, just South of St. Croix Falls. He was an early Treasurer of Polk County.

When he died in 1887, he was serving his fourth term as Chairman of the Town of St. Croix Falls and had served as Chairman of the Polk County Board.

Eight children were born to the William Amerys', 6 of whom reached maturity: Marcella, Charles William, Frances Sarah, Walter, Florence, Jane Estelle, Eva Victoria and Philip Francis.

Grandchildren presently living as of 1986:

Daughter of Eva Victoria: - Evalyn Amery Colvin McLean, A Seattle Socialite, and husband Admiral Gordon Alexander McLean, USN (Retired) Living in Oak Harbor, Whidbey Isle, Washington

Two sons and one daughter of Philip Francis:

William James Amery: Retired Social Counselor for the State of Minnesota. Living in Albuquerque, New Mexico

George Richard Amery, Mechanical Engineer with The duPont Company, (Retired) and wife, Audrey Thompson Amery, Girl Scout Executive Niagara County Council, Niagara Falls, N.Y. (Retired) Living in Deltona, Florida

Frances Amery Larson, Retired Kindergarten-Primary Teacher City of Milwaukee, Wis. and husband, Harvey LaMar Larson, Microbiologist City of Milwaukee (Retired) and Naval Reserve Commander, (Retired)

During the illness which preceded William Amery's death, several citizens from the village came to see him and asked his permission to name

their growing village for him. He gave his permission by saying, "I would be honored, although, I will never live to see it." William Amery passed away in 1887.

Those who have heard of William Amery will remember him as a great help to the early settlers, assisting them in the carrying out of their affairs, particularly in the area of writing personal and legal letters where proper and precise communication form was necessary.