

McCormick Family

In "Southwestern Wisconsin, Old Crawford County", Henry Charles McCormick pg. 580-82

McCormick JX

Henry and Ellen Cassidy McCormick were natives of Ireland. Henry was born March 1830 and died Feb 8, 1907. His death certificate (vol. 4 pg 512) says that he was widowed (I didn't find a death certificate for Ellen). Henry and Ellen immigrated to the new world and settled first in Canada. When their son Henry Charles (born Mar 22, 1860) was still very young they crossed the border into the United States, settling in Madison, Wisconsin (Southern WI History). The family must have been in New York where two children were born prior to entering Canada. I found Henry and Ellen in the 1870 census of Ridgeway, Iowa County Wisconsin where both Henry and Ellen are 38 and born in Ireland (Henry is a farmer); their children are Margaret 16, Ellen 14 (both born NY), Mary Ann 13, Catherine 12, Henry 10, Stewart 8 and Alexander 7 (Mary Ann, Catherine, Henry and Stewart are born in Canada. Alexander is born in WI). They are still living there in 1880 and Henry is farming.

The 1900 census of Blooming Grove shows Henry McCormick, age 70 born in Ireland, living with his daughter Katherine and her husband J J Power (Although no address is given the 1930 census shows the Power family at 2721 Milwaukee Street). In 1910 they are living near the Jacob Wirth family.

Note that Catherine and Katherine is the same person, the name being spelled differently in variously documents.

I have found further information for three of their children; Alex, Henry and Katherine. Stuart was living in Chicago in 1933 (obituary of Katherine).

Katherine McCormick was born Feb 28, 1860 in Canada, married Jeffrey J Power and died Jan 24, 1933 at her home at 2721 Milwaukee Street. Jeffrey Power was born Jan 27, 1861 in Wisconsin and died Oct 24, 1931 at his home at 2721 Milwaukee St. He was an inventor of laundry equipment built by the Varclone Corp of Milwaukee (obituary Cap Times Oct 24, 1931).

X The 1870 census makes it more likely that Katherine was born ca 1858. The 1900 census of Blooming Grove shows J J Power age 36, Katherine 40 and children Clarence, Mary, Thomas, Montgomery and Jeffrey, and Katherine's father Henry McCormick. The children are all born in Wisconsin. The 1910 census shows them living on Milwaukee Street in Blooming Grove (near Jacob Wirth) where J J Power is a salesman of machinery. In the 1920 census they are at 916 Milwaukee Street in Blooming Grove, ward 6. Jeffrey (Sr.) is an inventor, with his own shop. Son Thomas 31 is working in an auto garage, Montgomery 29 is working at a machine works, and Jeffrey 29 (Jr.) is in a realty office. Their daughter Mary Hoffman is 34 and has two children (no husband listed and she may be a widow). The 1930 census shows them living at 2721 Milwaukee Street and sons Thomas and Jeffrey are officers in a manufacturing company. The 1911 plat map of Madison shows J J Power owning two lots, outlots 103 & 104, on Milwaukee Street.

X Jeffrey (Sr.) was issued a patent (#887,422) for a mixing valve for an internal combustion engine on May 12, 1908. The patent was filed Jan 9, 1905 (The Horseless Age, Hopkins Transportation Library, The Automobile Trade Magazine, Stanford University Library, pg. 672).

Montgomery (Monte) Power was born June 29, 1889 in Mazomanie. He married Viola Murray, and died Jan 18, 1977 in Madison. He was a veteran of WWI where he served in France and Germany. He founded the Varclone Company which became a leader in the laundry

and dry cleaning industry (his father invented laundry equipment for the company). He served as president of the company until its union with the Hoffman Machinery Corp in New York City in 1931. Monte then moved to New York and served as vice president of the U S Hoffman Machinery Corp and president of Canadian Machinery Corp. of Canada until his retirement in 1948. He then returned to Madison. He managed the Fauerbach Brewer baseball team in his early youth and was one of two surviving players (in 1976). He was survived by his wife and daughter Mary Ann Power of Belen NM. Preceding him in death was his sister Mary Hoffman and brothers Clarence, Thomas, and Jeffrey (obit WSJ Jan 19, 1977).

Jeffrey Power was born Feb 14, 1892 in Mazomanie and died Sept 1, 1967 in Madison. Jeffrey was a WWI veteran. He was associated with the manufacturing and sales of heavy laundry and dry cleaning equipment in Milwaukee from 1932-1935 (Varclone). He then returned to Madison (obit Cap Times Sept 1, 1967). In 1927 (directory) Jeffrey is vice president of the State Securities Company and living at home at 916 Milwaukee Street (addresses were renumbered). In 1959 he was a bookkeeper for Catholic Welfare.

Thomas Power was an engineer in 1929 and a mechanical engineer in 1933 and living at home (directories).

Henry Charles McCormick was born Mar 22, 1860 in Canada (obviously, there is a discrepancy in the year born between Katherine and Henry). He married Celia Iloff May 1, 1892 and died Sept 13, 1918 where his occupation is real estate broker. His brother Alexander was the informant (death certificate). Celia, daughter of John and Ellen (Barrett) Iloff was born May 22, 1870 at McGregor, Iowa and died by 1937, possibly in Chicago at the home of her brother-in-law Stuart McCormick. The executor of her estate was her son P. Montgomery McCormick. The Southwest Wisconsin History says that Henry came to Madison when a very young boy and received his education there. However census records show the family in Ridgeway, Iowa County in 1870 & 80. Henry is at least 20 and probably over thirty when he arrives in Madison. The Southwest Wisconsin History also says that he entered the service of the Chicago & North Western RR as locomotive engineer for many years and during the last four years of life he worked for a local real estate company (his occupation as a railroad engineer seems to be contradicted by the Madison city directories (the railway employment may have been in Minnesota where his eldest child was born in 1894). The Madison City directories, 1896-1911, show Henry's occupation as a traveling salesman, in 1900 & 1902 for A W S Company (A W Stevens, threshers & engines for the railroad). In 1896/97 his address is 126 N Hancock St, in 1898/99 his address is 202 First Street and in 1900 he is living at 647 E Wilson St. In 1902 he is living in Blooming Grove (directory). From 1907 through 1911 Henry is working for Gaar Scott & Co (threshing machinery at 201-205 Williamson St).

On Feb 28, 1900, Henry bought land in section 5, Township 7 Range 10 east, lying north and west of the Sun Prairie Road and east of the creek (Starkweather), subject to the right of way of 33 feet across the north end from Carrie McConnell for \$1600 (Deed 179-399). This land is also bounded by Commercial Ave, although not yet named as such. He also bought other properties. The 1900 census of Blooming Grove shows H C McCormick, age 41, born in Canada and a machinery agent and Celia 30 born in Iowa. They had 3 children; Marcella, John, Catherine and a boarder. The 1905 Wisconsin census of Blooming Grove shows Henry C

McCormick 45, born Canada and an agent for ag insp (agriculture inspector), Celia 35, Marcella 11 born MN, John 6, Marie 4, and Henry 1, the last four born in Wisconsin. Also living with them is John Iliff 65, Celia's father, who was born in Canada. The 1910 Blooming Grove census shows Henry, age 50, is a salesman of threshing machines. Celia is 39 born Iowa, Marcella 16 born MN, John 11, Marie 9, Henry 6, Montgomery 5, Clarence 7 months and John Iliff 74

After Henry's death in 1918, Celia's lived on the Sun Prairie Road which later became East Washington Ave (1919 directory) and is employed at French Battery and Carbon Company (later became Ray-O-Vac) where she is still working in 1921. From 1923 to 1929 Celia is at 115 W Gilman. The 1930 census shows Celia is a keeper of a lodging house at 115 W Gilman with son Henry 24 a sports editor, Montgomery 22 and Lorella 17. An affidavit dated May 7, 1937 by Montgomery P McCormick (son of Henry and Celia) executor of the estate of Celia, seems to indicate that Celia may have died in Chicago.

Beginning in Feb 1919 (after Henry's death), Celia began selling the property located between the Sun Prairie Road, Commercial Ave and McCormick Ave. And on Sept 6, 1922 she sold the remaining property to Gregory McCormick, her nephew and son of Alexander McCormick. The children of Henry and Celia, except for son John, attended the University of Wisconsin and had successful careers.

Marcella was born Mar 14, 1894 in Duluth MN, was educated in Madison, and married Harry Albright Jan 7, 1914. In 1932 they were living with Marcella's mother Celia. At the time of her death, Feb 25, 1971, she was a bookkeeper at Sana Dairy.

John Edward was born Aug 7, 1898 in Madison and enlisted in WWI and assigned to Company 108, thirty-third Division of Engineers. He was sent to France and was gassed in battle on June 15, 1918. He was sent to the base hospital and passed away a several weeks later. Two years later, a military funeral was held in Madison and the body buried at Calvary Cemetery in Madison.

Marie was born Sept 17, 1902 in Madison, graduated from Central High School and attended the University of Wisconsin. She married Edward Abramofsky of Milwaukee June 7, 1926.

Henry James was born Aug 31, 1904 in Madison, educated at Central High School and the University of Wisconsin where he received special training in journalism and became sports editor for the Wisconsin State Journal. Henry died Aug 27, 1961 (large article in the Wisconsin State Journal of Aug 28, 1961).

Montgomery P was born Feb 27, 1908. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in February 1932 and joined the sports staff of the Wisconsin State Journal where he served until his retirement in 1972. Monte, as he was known, financed his education at the University by delivering ice around Madison. His degree was in economics and commerce. He and his wife Shirley lived for many years at 1209 Rutledge St. Monty died in February 1987 in Houston Texas where he was living with his son Patrick.

Laurella was born Oct 21, 1913 and attended the University of Wisconsin. In 1961, Laurella McCormick and Marcella Albrecht were both living at 1366 Morrison St. She died May 1, 1991 and her death certificate says that she was editor of a magazine. The 1955 city directory shows Laurella is editor of an Electrical Information publication. In 1959 she is editor of a gas magazine.

Alexander J McCormick was, born Mar 26, 1865 in Brigham, Iowa County and died Dec 27, 1939 at his home at 1234 Williamson St. His wife was Theresa. He farmed in Barneveld until 1897 when he moved to Madison. He was employed by the city as an engineer. He was survived by Theresa, seven sons, Gregory, Dr. Stuart, Harold, and Angus all of Madison, the Rev James professor of history at Carroll College, Helena, Montana, Dr. Donald of Shawano, and Lawrence a student of the University of Iowa dental school, two daughters, Ethel a teacher in Milwaukee and Theresa, wife of Dr. John Scheible of Milwaukee. He was also survived by a brother Stewart McCormick of Chicago (obit WSJ Dec 27, 1939).

In 1900 the family is at 312 S Few and in 1910 at 308 S Few. The 1920 census shows the children of Alexander; Ethel 26, Gregory 24, Stuart 22, James 20, Harold 17, Angus 14, Theresa 11, Donald 8, and Lawrence 5 and they are living at 1234 Williamson St. Gregory is manager of a lunch room.

Gregory was born April 6, 1894 in Barneveld and died Apr 6, 1978. He was a veteran of WWI, founded the McCormick Lumber & Fuel Company and formerly operated a restaurant on Williamson St (The city directory of 1921 shows Gregory operating a Billiards and Lunch Room at 1218 Williamson and the 1925 directory shows Gregory had a restaurant at 1234 Williamson St). He was survived by two daughters Mrs. Gordon Fleisch, Mrs. Donald Schafer; three sons, Patrick, William, and Michael all of Madison; a brother Dr L Riley McCormick also of Madison and two sisters Ethel McCormick and Mrs. John (Teresa) Scheible of Milwaukee (obituary WSJ Apr 8, 1978).

McCormick Lumber, at Milwaukee and Bryan Streets, appears in the 1935 city directory for the first time. Mike McCormick says that when his father started his business, Milwaukee Street was nothing but a gravel road.

Gregory bought the McCormick Plat, land between the Sun Prairie Road, Commercial Ave and McCormick Ave on Sept 6, 1922 and he began selling the property shortly after.

A poster advertising the property says:

"Lots \$300.00 to \$550.00, \$10.00 will start you! \$10.00 per month, with six months off if out of work or sickness. Plant a few dollars every month in the fastest growing city in the Northwest. Sale starting now and continued until all lots are sold. A few facts about this subdivision. It is bounded by Sun Prairie Road and Commercial Ave. Just outside city limits where taxes are low. Nearest subdivision to city on main highway (Sun Prairie Road). Macadam road leading to subdivision*. Most centrally located to all East Side Industries and East Side Public Schools and Churches. Electric lights. 10 minutes walk to street car line, walk to new round house, walk to Madison Kipp and car barns. Buy your lot now and have it all paid for when it gets into city. See Greg McCormick, owner at McCormick's Lunch Room. Phone F (Fairchild) 2336, 1218 Williamson Street". Although the poster is not dated, it must be 1923-1925. Gregory was at the 1218 location in 1921 and he had moved to 1234 Williamson St by 1925.

*A Macadam road is one that consists of crushed and compacted stone bound together by tar.

Gregory and his sons probably constructed some of the houses in the McCormick Plat. One of the houses at 3017 Commercial Ave was constructed by Gregory's sons (remembered by son Mike who has seen a picture of his brothers working on the house). On Dec 31, 1947, Gregory

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AHI #: 95441
Address: ~~3013~~ COMMERCIAL AVE 3017
City: MADISON
Year Taken: 1983
Photographer: WHS HPPH

McCormick built

[Close Window](#)



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Biography - McCormick

WSJ 8-28-61

State Journal Veteran

Henry J. McCormick, Sports Editor, Dies

Henry J. McCormick, 57, sports editor of The Wisconsin State Journal for 33 years, and long a vigilant chronicler of Big 10 sports, died Sunday afternoon at his home, 1525 Vilas ave., a reluctant victim of cancer.

In all his years of sports writing, he never reported a better

Henry J. McCormick — an Editorial — is on Page I of the Sports Peach.

fight than the one he himself made against that disease. Throughout almost a year's struggle, including frequent trips to



HENRY J. MCCORMICK

the hospital and even amputations of a part of his foot, he showed the kind of courage he had praised in others in his "Playing the Game" column.

His funeral services will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 2131 Rowley ave. The Joyce funeral home, 540 W. Washington ave., is in charge.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 3 p.m. Tuesday. The rosary will be recited there at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The family suggested that memorials could be sent to the Cancer Research hospital at the University of Wisconsin.

McCormick, known to thousands of readers for his coverage of Wisconsin sports events, was stricken with symptoms of cancer last

year. But he continued at work and insisted on completing coverage of the Badgers' football season before taking time out for a complete checkup.

From then on it was a losing battle, but McCormick never gave in. He had returned home from the hospital about a week and a half ago. His condition became worse Friday and Saturday, and he had intended to return to the hospital Sunday night. He died about 3:45 p.m.

McCormick first entered the hospital Nov. 25 and was there when Roy L. Matson, State Journal editor, died on Dec. 3. McCormick and Matson, for years a powerful combination in the production of this newspaper, had been able to communicate cheer-up notes to each other.

After his surgery, McCormick began a long process of adjustment and told his colleagues he would be back by the first of July. On Monday, July 3, McCormick kept his promise. He dropped in at the sports department "to get the feel of the place again."

He did not attempt to resume his regular work, but he told his co-workers, "It's great to be back."

back of the familiar desk where

came from the fact McCormick knew what it was to get smashed into the mud on the gridiron, and from the fact he knew what "sissy" meant.

"More than that, I think, it was because he knew those kids were kids, and he knew what one word in the sting of black on white could do to a boy."

A Little Nostalgia

In his own column that day McCormick said his temporary farewell to the Madison and university he loved.

In a little nostalgia, he recalled some of the major thrills up to that time in 15 years of sports editing.

Recalls Triumphs

He led with a recollection of how an Irish-Hawaiian Walter (Mickey) McGuire scored three touchdowns in 1932 to beat Minnesota, 20-13; told of the never-to-be-forgotten fall in 1928 when Wisconsin beat Notre Dame, 22-6; of the 1938 team's 20-13 victory over Northwestern.

McCormick added:

"Oh yes, and I'll miss those Monday morning quarterbacks, uptown strategists, or mezzanine floor prognosticators. They were the people I always envied because they never were wrong. It mean they never were wrong on Monday morning on what should have been done Saturday afternoon."

After the war, where he was for 15 months, McCormick picked up where he had left off.

Some Satisfaction

He had the satisfaction of seeing and writing about winning teams, such as the Big Ten Champion Badgers of 1952 and 1959, the pennant-winning Milwaukee Braves of 1957 and 1958, and the World Series champion Braves of 1957.

McCormick traveled with the Wisconsin teams to the Rose Bowl, and with the Braves on their spring training trips and World Series games.

When the State Journal switched to the morning field in 1949, the sports section under McCormick really came into its own. It blossomed out with a daily Peach easily accessible, jam-packed with news of national, state, area, and city sports events.