

SAMUEL FRANCIS STEPHEN HOW

Frank How sailed from England to Canada in April 1892 "to learn farming abroad". A year later, finding no work of any note around Winnipeg, Manitoba, he decided to go on into the United States via train, his destination being St. Paul, Minnesota. After working at odd jobs around southern Minnesota and So. Dakota, he was hired by the American Express Company in April 1896, working as an Express Messenger in So. Dakota through April of 1898.

Upon the sinking of the Maine in Havana Harbor, precipitating America's involvement in the Spanish American War, Frank volunteered at Gettysburg, So. Dakota, in the 1st South Dakota Volunteer Infantry. *"I won't say that I was bubbling over with Patriotism or anything of the kind, but I came to the conclusion that a War with Spain would be a short affair and that it would do me good to get a little Military Drill at Fort Meade or some other place and I expected I would never leave the States."*

The regiment was shipped over to Manila, Philippine Islands (to fight in the Philippine Insurrection) on July 23rd, 1898 from San Francisco and was mustered out of service on October 5th, 1899. Frank then decided to sail back to England to visit his family and then on to South Africa in early May through the end of August 1900, to visit the Paynters at Kimberly, farming friends of his from Cornwall. Mr Paynter had fallen sick and the Boer War had resulted in the loss of all their livestock, their property and in partial destruction to their home. Frank did some repairing to their homestead and spent some time as a ticket agent for the Cape Government Railroad before sailing back to England. He returned to the States and in October 1900 was again working for the American Express Agency, this time on different routes between Minnesota and Wisconsin. On January 1st, 1904, he began the route from Minneapolis MN to Sioux City IA and Omaha Ne that would take the train through the Benson property near Kasota MN and where he would meet his soon-to-be bride. They married at the bride's home on Aug. 3rd, 1904, and moved into their new home in south Minneapolis.

Frank kept diaries from the time he was 13 years old. The set is no longer complete, but they show us a man who was well read, well written, well liked (and respected) by family and friends, frugal, industrious, God fearing, loved his wife and children, and was a very serious minded person. Each Christmas season a large shining star was hung over the Altar at Vanderburgh Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis MN, in memory of Frank How from his family.