

BARROWS

Block 13, Lot 14 De Smet Cemetery

Gay Barrows is mentioned in “The Road Back” diary entry dated June 16, 1931 (see page 314, *A Little House Traveler*):

Manly went to De Smet and spent the morning loafing with Charley [Dawley] and Gay Barrows.

ERASTUS FRANK BARROWS

Buried in De Smet Cemetery, probably Block 13, Lot 14
May 23, 1821 – June 5, 1892; died at age 71 [need obit]
Body moved to Wildwood Cemetery in Sheboygan Falls WI in 1895

Erastus Barrows was the father of Gay Barrows and Minnie Barrows of De Smet. Erastus was born May 23, 1821, in Bridgeport (Addison Co.) VT to Dr. Erastus Barrows (1792 – 1821) and Sussana (Hemenway) (1795 – 1834). Erastus was married three times: to Gay’s sister Minnie’s mother (Harriet J. Barber, born 1830 in Ohio; died September 23, 1854, in Sheboygan Falls WI), on October 16, 1851; to Gay’s mother (Caroline); and then to Adeline Smith in 1875. With Harriet, Erastus also had a daughter Hattie C. Barrows, who was born and died in 1856.

The Barrows family lived in Sheboygan Falls (Sheboygan Co.) WI. Erastus Barrows was in Kingsbury County by the summer of 1880. He filed on a tree claim, the NE 7-109-56, on May 7, 1880, which he relinquished to his daughter Minnie on March 9, 1888. She made final proof in 1896. Erastus preempted the NW 8-109-56 (adjoining the preemption of Thomas Power) on August 15, 1881. For many years, Erastus Barrows sold lightning rods, both in Wisconsin and Dakota Territory.

In 1884 (month unknown), Mr. Barrows wrote a letter to his old friends back in Sheboygan Falls:

Your kind invitation to be present at your reunion and picnic on the 25th has just reached me, and touches the chord of memory which vibrates back to the days of early manhood and reproduces the panorama of quaint recesses in our pioneer life in the woods of Sheboygan Co.

The novelties, fascinations, long privations and romances of a pioneer life in our country have passed forever. No frontiersman can long remain secluded in any desirable locality, either on plain or mountain. The first season will dot the landscape with settlers’ dwellings, and soon the locomotive’s whistle will announce the arrival of trains, laden with comforts and luxuries and end the days of primitive simplicity.



Erastus Frank Barrows

The tales of Dakota's privations are confined to the space of a single winter. In our county where, four years since, the coyote, the elk and the antelope ranged in careless freedom, there are 73,000 acres of wheat awaiting the harvest, and 25,000 acres more in other crops, and freshly turned sod. Then cherish the memories of these old pioneer scenes as the last that will occur to you or your posterity. There is a sadness mingled with the pleasure of the meetings. Year by year the ranks become thinned by the order of the winged messenger to muster on the banks beyond the river. The familiar faces and cheering words of our old comrades, Parish, Smith, Weeden and others, will be missed for the first time at your this-year gathering. They have been foremost in the enjoyment of former gatherings, and their noble and sterling qualities will form a theme of interesting conversation at this time. Many thanks to your kind invitation to be present with you on the 25th. If possible, I would accept it with great pleasure. The brief time, necessitated by being obliged to send this by today's mail, renders this reply hurried and imperfect, yet I could not allow your kind invitation pass by unnoticed. With many wishes for the success and pleasures of the meeting, and the prosperity and happiness of the Old Pioneers, I remain ~ Very truly yours, E.F. Barrows.

P.S. Messrs. A.L. Dawley and J.W. Arnold, old Sheboygan Co. pioneers, are now residing in this village. On the 25th I will invite them to meet in the front room of my cabin, and we will hold our reunion in the deserted lands of the Sioux and the Dakotah."

It was originally planned that the first schoolhouse in De Smet (the one now part of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society complex) would be moved to a site where needed as a schoolhouse after the graded school building was formerly dedicated in January 1885. It was not moved, being sold to Erastus Barrows for use as a residence. It was later the home of Louis Sasse.

September 4, 1885. De Smet LEADER.

Old School No. 2 was formally sold to E. F. Barrows for three hundred dollars, and a bill of sale made by his order to Leander G. Huntley. --- Erastus F. Barrows was paid \$133.95 for lightning rods for new building No. 2.

August 3, 1888. Kingsbury County NEWS.

Owing to the continued ill health of the founder and proprietor, the Pioneer Lightning Rod Co. is closing out its business after thirty-three years operation. We yet have a few rods on hand which we will sell at reduced rates, and guarantee protection when conditions are complied with. Any one wishing cheap protection against lightning, please call on or address immediately E.F. Barrows, De Smet.

Erastus F. Barrows died in June 5, 1892. He was buried in the De Smet Cemetery, probably in Block 13, Lot 14. Following the death and burial of his daughter Minnie, his wife had both bodies taken up from the cemetery and reburied in 1895 in Wildwood Cemetery, Sheboygan, Wisconsin: 518 North Wildwood Avenue, Sheboygan WI 53081.

June 17, 1892. Lake Preston TIMES.

Mr. E.F. Barrows, an old and respected citizen of the county, died at his home in De Smet. He was 71 years of age.

May 17, 1895. Kingsbury County Independent.

Mrs. Barrows had the remains of Mr. Barrows and Miss Barrows taken up from the cemetery here and took them with her to Wisconsin for permanent burial.



Barrows family graves, Wildwood Cemetery. Martha M. at far right; E.F. Barrows to her left. Others unknown by author.

FRANK GAY BARROWS

Original buried Block 13, Lot 14 De Smet Cemetery.
November 29, 1859 – June 10, 1939; died at age 79.

Effie and Gay Barrows buried here, also son Rollo and his wife, Francis Winker.

Husband of Effie Hephzibah (Sneesby) Barrows (October 27, 1864 – October 24, 1937).

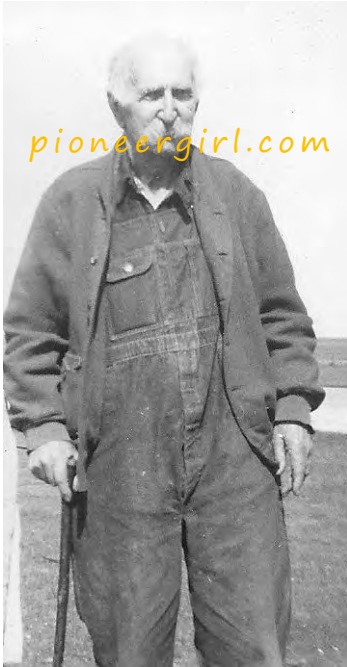
Father of five children.

Frank Gay Barrows was born November 29, 1859, in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, to Erastus Frank Barrows and Caroline (Russell) Barrows. He had a half sister, Martha Miriam “Minnie” Barrows (1852 – 1895), born to his father and first wife, Harriet J. (Barber) Barrows. In 1875, his father married his third wife, Adeline Smith.



Frank Gay Barrows

In 1880, Erastus & Gay Barrows were enumerated on the census in Kingsbury County, inhabitants of 109-56, where Erastus had a tree claim. Frank was also enumerated on the 1880 census in Sheboygan Falls, with wife Adeline and daughter Miriam (age 27). Gay Barrows spent the Hard Winter of 1880-1881 in De Smet. June 8, 1881, Gay filed on a homestead, the SE 6-109-56, making final proof in 1888.



Frank Gay Barrows

Gay Barrows married Effie Hephzibah Sneesby on December 13, 1882. They had the following children: Francis Gay (March 1, 1894) wed Henry Winkler; Rollo Oscar (March 11, 1898); Lois Effie (September 17, 1903) wed Egbert LaFee; Ann Lorene (May 18, 1904) married Rudolph Moeller; Raymond Eldon (May 9, 1916) married Mildred Ritchie. Gay Barrows died June 10, 1939. Effie Barrows died October 24, 1937 (per SD death records).

Gay Barrows worked the farm and as a carpenter, building many of the schoolhouses in the county. In 1904, he started work at the city gas and water plant in De Smet, retiring as engineer in 1923. He died at age 79, on June 10, 1939.

June 15, 1939. De Smet NEWS.

Gay Barrows Died; Was Pioneer Settler, Long City Employee

Gay Barrows, a pioneer of this vicinity, passed away June 10th at a Huron hospital after an illness of four weeks. Mr. Barrows, who was nearly 80, had broken his leg below the hip in a fall at the farm southwest of De Smet.

For many years Mr. Barrows was manager of the city gas and water plant in De Smet.

Funeral services were conducted at the St. Stephens Episcopal church here Monday afternoon by the Rev. W.L. Johnson. Interment was made in the local cemetery by his wife, who passed away October 24, 1937. Mr. Barrows was a member of the local Odd Fellows lodge and members conducted a short service at the cemetery. Pall bearers were Ross Rouserville, J.O. Purinton, Jas. A. Keelar, J.H. Armstrong, E.N. Morgan and Dr. J.H. Hall.

Gay Barrows was born at Sheboygan Falls, Wis., November 29, 1859. He came to Dakota Territory in 1880 and homesteaded eight miles south and two miles west of De Smet. The farm is still the family home. On December 13, 1882 he was united in marriage to Effie Sneesby, who passed away two years ago.

Left to mourn his loss are Rollo, Anna and Ray Barrows at home. Mrs. Henry (Frances) Winker of Huron, and Mrs. Bert (Lois) LaFee of Cavour.



BARROWS / Father Gay 1859 - 1939 / Mother Effie 1864 - 1937

EFFIE HEPHZIBAH (SNEESBY) BARROWS

Block 13, Lot 14 De Smet Cemetery

October 27, 1864 - October 24, 1937; died at age 73

Wife of Frank Gay Barrows (1859 – 1939).

Mother of five children.

Effie Hepzibah Sneesby was born October 27, 1864 in Houston (Minnesota Co.) MN, to John Sheesby (1826 – 1865) and Ann (Robinson) Sneesby (1835 – 1928; she was born in Ireland). came to Dakota with her sons James Robinson and George Henry, and daughter Effie Hepzibah after the Hard Winter; there was also a daughter Alice. Ann Sneesby filed on a homestead in Mathews Township, the S-SW and NW-SW and SW-NW 23-109-57 on May 22, 1881. She made final proof in 1887. She also preempted the NE 27-109-57 in June 1892. The Sneesbys should also be buried in De Smet Cemetery.

According to DSY&T, page 60, Effie Barrows lived on the farm with the children while Gay lived in a shack in De Smet, operating the early pumping station and gas plant which furnished the first street lights. (The De Smet NEWS says that gas lights were installed in the city about 1902.) Each weekend, Mrs. Barrows drove to town to cook up a week's worth of food for her husband and to tidy up his house.

October 29, 1937. The De Smet NEWS.

Mrs. Gay Barrows, Pioneer Farm Wife, Is Laid To Rest.

Mrs. Gay Barrows, a pioneer of Mathews township who was still living on the homestead where she joined her husband in 1882, died at the farm home Sunday at the age of 73, after an illness of several months.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at St. Stephens Episcopal church in De Smet, with the Rev. W.L. Johnson officiating. Interment was in the local cemetery.

The pioneer farm wife and mother had lived on the land continuously, managing the farm through many years when her husband was holding positions as a mechanic in De Smet.

Mrs. Barrows is survived by her husband, three daughters, Mrs. Henry Winker (Frances) of Huron, Mrs. Bert LaFee (Lois) of Cavour, and Annia, at home, and two sons, Rollo and Ray, living at home. A sister lives in Iowa, others of the family having died.

Effie Sneesby was born at Wilmington, Minn., October 27, 1864, and came to Dakota Territory in May, 1881 with her mother and two brothers, her father having died. She was united in marriage to Gay Barrows of Mathews township December 13, 1882, and they took up their residence on his claim, taken in 1880 [sic].

MARTHA MIRIAM "MINNIE" BARROWS

Buried in De Smet Cemetery, probably Block 13, Lot 14.
August 11, 1852 – February 2, 1895; died at age 42

Body moved to Wildwood Cemetery in Sheboygan Falls WI in May 1895.

Daughter of Harriet & Erastus Barrows.

Half-sister of Gay Barrows.

Martha Miriam "Minnie" Barrows was born August 11, 1852, in Sheboygan Falls WI to Erastus Frank Barrows and his first wife, Harriet J. Barber, who died when Minnie was a small child. She came to De Smet in June 1883 after teaching in Wisconsin. First mention of her in the De Smet newspapers is attending teacher's institute in October 1883, with Gennie Masters, Florence Garland, V.S.L. Owen, and others. In November of that year, the first schoolhouse was filled to capacity, so Miss Barrows was hired to teach the primary children in the Sanford Building near the schoolhouse. She taught through 1894. Rose Wilder began school in the fall of 1892 and remembered Miss Barrows as teacher. While Mr. Owen made \$625 per year in 1884, Miss Barrow's salary was \$325.

In March 1884, a library committee was formed (V.S.L. Owen, Wm. H.H. Phillips, Minnie Barrows, and J.H. Carroll) to begin a public lending library in town. Miss Barrows was to compile a list of 100 books to be purchased.

In December 1894, Minnie Barrows was quite ill, and she and her mother went to Rochester MN to be treated, where she remained until late January 1895, dying of cancer at home on February 2, 1895. She was buried in the De Smet Cemetery. In May of that year, her mother had Minnie's body and that of her father, Erastus Barrows, moved to Wildwood Cemetery in Sheboygan Falls, WI.

February 8, 1895. Kingsbury County INDEPENDENT.

Obituary. Gone to the home whence none return, Where pain and sorrow never come.

After a long illness and much suffering, Miss Minnie M. Barrows, born in Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, August 11, 1852, died at her home in De Smet, South Dakota, at six o'clock Saturday evening, February 2, 1895.



Martha Miriam "Minnie" Barrows



Martha M. / Died Feb 2, 1895 / Aged 42 Yrs.

The school room, the garden of the mind, may well be called her home, having been a teacher from the age of fifteen, at which age she taught a small select school in Wisconsin. She was educated at Oberlin, Ohio, after which she returned to Wisconsin and continued teaching. In June, 1883, she came to De Smet, and the following September began teaching in the De Smet school, where she has worked faithfully for eleven years as teacher in the primary department. When school closed last spring, she felt that she needed a longer vacation than usual. She also desired to prepare to do still better work, and intended to pursue her kindergarten studies, and kept preparing to go away to school,

but her health kept failing gradually till November, when she was not able to sit up very long each day. In the first week of December, she was taken to Minneapolis for surgical treatment. While at Minneapolis her left side became paralyzed and she longed to get back home. Just one week before death she did return home. Though helpless she seemed cheerful, and improved so much that she could raise her head some. But she soon began to fail again and on Thursday, Jan. 31, all hope of recovery was past. She remained conscious till Saturday noon.

She leaves a mother and brother besides many more distant relatives and a host of friends to mourn her loss.

Tuesday the public schools were closed and in the forenoon the school children all went to view her remains. It was a touching scene to see so many of her pupils realize that the light had fled forever from her eyes, her hand was motionless, and her heart was still.

In the afternoon the older people gathered at her home where the funeral ceremony was conducted by Rev. Burge.

ADELINE (SMITH) BARROWS

Buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse (Onondaga Co) NY, Section 60, Lot 96.

May 6, 1834 – August 21, 1911; died at age 77

Third wife of Erastus Frank Barrows (1821 – 1892).

Step-mother of Gay Barrows and Minnie Barrows.

Adeline Smith was born May 6, 1834 in New York, the daughter of P.P. and Laura C. Smith. Adeline Smith married Erastus Frank Barrows in 1875. The couple came to De Smet following the Hard Winter, and while living in De Smet, Mrs. Barrows was very involved in church activities. She moved to New York following the death of her step-daughter, Minnie. While She was in New York in 1905. She was reported as being



Adeline S. Barrows / 1834 - 1911

very ill in April 1910, and died August 21, 1911. She was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, New York.

September 1, 1911. The De Smet NEWS.

A letter from Syracuse, N.Y. announces the death of Mrs. E.F. Barrows on August 21. The Barrows family lived in De Smet in the early days. Mrs. Barrows has lived in New York state for many years, and for several years has been in very poor health. She was a great sufferer at the last. Gay Barrows of De Smet is a stepson of the deceased.

pioneer girl