



# Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 6

ISSN - 1008-5765

November - December 2016

Please consider making a donation to the local food bank, or to the Lakeland Animal Shelter. If you bring your donation to the meeting, one of our members will make sure the donation gets delivered.

**2017 Dues are due in January 2017**

*In the event a meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, we will post a message on the website [www.walworthcgs.com](http://www.walworthcgs.com) or call 414-217-4900.*

## 2016 Meetings, Events

**December 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm** - Christmas Pot Luck (ham, Italian Beef, and fried chicken are the meat choices), elections for President and Treasurer, Take away Bingo. *Bring a dish to pass.*

**December 25<sup>th</sup> - Merry Christmas!!**

## 2017 Meetings, Events

**January - No Meeting - Happy New Year**

**February 7<sup>th</sup> - 1:30 pm** - Annual Show and Share - Round table discussion - bring something to show and/or share to fellow genealogists.

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## Notice!

### New Library Hours

In an effort to be available to folks with full time jobs, our Genealogy Library will have extended hours the **third** Tuesday of each month . The new hours for the **third** Tuesday will be 10:00 am until 7:00 pm.

## WCGS Library Page



Diana Bird

Marilyn Traver

Judy Rockwell

\*\*\*\*\* Library Committee \*\*\*\*\*

From the library committee...

The library committee has been busy completing the inventory of the WCGS material held in our research library, and is about 2/3 completed. We plan to get materials better organized and grouped together and have up-to-date room maps available.

In 2016 we have had a good number of researchers stop in. Following is an alphabetical list of the surnames that were searched, and you need to stop in and check the register of visitors to see if you have a connection to the same surname.

They are: Alden, Beardsley, Bohn, Boken, Bredfield, Brown, Butcher, Clark, Cooper, Delano, DeLong, Dowling, Ellis, Emerson, Emmerson, Fiedler, Friedrich, Goodenow, Hall, Harris, Havens, Hawes, Haziltine, Hickey, Johnson, Kaczorowski, Kingman, Kroupa, Kucharski, Kunzirst, Linneman, Masters, McArdle, McDaniel, McElhose, Miller, Moore, Morrissy, Muza, Newberry, Nowotny, Olsen, Oost, O'Reilly, Ostrum, Parrish, Pettit, Pfeil, Phoenix, Platts, Pollacheck, Rand, Rockwell, Sannes, Shoemaker, Skowronski, Stearns, Thayer, Thorsen, Thronsen, Vacek, Walderbach, Wallin, Ward, West, Wheeler, Williams.

Also be mindful that the WCGS library room will close after the 13<sup>th</sup> of December and reopen again Tuesday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> 2017!

We hope everyone has wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations and be ready to dig into their ancestors past!

Diana, Judy, Marilyn

To contact any of the members:

Diana Bird - 815-943-3690 - leave a message if no answer

Judy Rockwell - [jjrockwell@gmail.com](mailto:jjrockwell@gmail.com)

Marilyn Traver - [msearchin@hotmail.com](mailto:msearchin@hotmail.com)

They will be delighted to hear from you!



## From the President's Desk



Mike Hay & Chris Brookes- WCGS Co-Presidents

### Mike's Message:

The year ends!

The close of another year brings with it the close of my term as your President/Co-President. With the election on December 6, I will be history, but since we revel in history, it is good. When I first became the leader of our group, we had some financial difficulties, but with everyone's cooperation, we overcame that problem, as well as other situations which developed over the last 4 years.

I thank each and every one of you, the members for all of your help in keeping this society a friendly, happy place of association where we could learn about our forebearers and help others to do the same. We are, once again, getting more visitors to our library, and to our meetings.

This is a great sign, and I have great hopes for the continuing prosperity of the Walworth County Genealogical Society. Have a Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year!

### Chris's Co-Comments:

It's the holiday season! Can you believe it? With the extended warm weather this fall, it's hard to imagine Christmas is right around the corner. Will you be getting together with family this year? Holidays are a great time to share family stories, ask questions, get information for your family tree, and maybe a family recipe, too. Family traditions are unique and wonderful.

Our WCGS tradition is the holiday party, Tuesday, December 6. Remember the earlier start time – 5:30 – and plan to bring a dish to pass and a wrapped gift (\$10.00 or less) for Take-away Bingo. WCGS is providing the entree (Ham, Chicken, and Italian Beef). Elections are on the agenda – every vote and every volunteer is appreciated.

Happy Holidays!



## St. Nick

By Christine Brookes

The day of our WCGS holiday party - December 6 - is St. Nicholas Day. So what is his story?

Nicholas was born during the third century in the village of Patara (in present-day Turkey) to wealthy parents. Both of his parents died in an epidemic while he was still young, and Nicholas was raised by his uncle—also named Nicholas—who was the bishop of Patara. Nicholas inherited his parents' wealth which he used to help the sick and needy. He dedicated his life to the church and was made Bishop of Myra when he was still a young man. During his lifetime, Christians were persecuted, exiled, and imprisoned. He was released from prison by the intervention of the Emperor Constantine and attended the Council of Nicaea in 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church.

You might remember when Aunt Ivy, Santa Claus's sister, visited the holiday party last year. She told this story:

St. Nicholas was a beloved Bishop in Asia Minor. He died on Dec. 6, which is now honored as his saint's day. He was a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor. It is because of St. Nicholas that we hang stockings with care.

One of the legends associated with St. Nicholas tells of a poor man who had three daughters of marriageable age. He was too poor to provide a dowry for each of them. St. Nicholas heard of their plight. Late one night he rode by the house and tossed a bag of coins in the window. The first daughter was able to marry. This was re-

peated for the second daughter. Now the third daughter was left to care for the house and her father. She did not dare to dream of having the same luck as her sisters. After washing the stockings and hanging them by the fire to dry, she went off to bed. Late that night, Nicholas rode by the house and tossed a bag of coins in the window. The bag landed in one of the stockings for her to find the next morning.

Meanwhile the father, wondering who was doing these kind things for his family, waited night after night by the window. Finally he discovered it was Nicholas and asked him why. Nicholas replied, "Good deeds should be done in secret."

So what does St. Nicholas have to do with a pawn shop? The symbol of Nicholas is three bags of gold or 3 GOLD BALLS – the sign of a pawn shop. A man's goods are safe under the sign of St. Nicholas. Nicholas is the patron saint of more causes than any other saint – children, travelers, merchants at sea, and also of Lapland, home of the people of the reindeer. To this day, people all over the world celebrate his generosity and kindness by giving to the poor, filling children's shoes with candy and small gifts, leaving hay and carrots for his horse, and reading a poem called "A Visit from St. Nicholas" or "The Night Before Christmas."

Happy St. Nicholas Day!



## AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

**Delavan** – Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Camp are visiting the World's Fair this week.-----

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith arrived from Cherryville, Kansas on Tuesday.-----

Miss Grace Merrell, of Chicago, is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. B. Sturtevant for a few days.--

-----Miss Lula Parish, of Chicago, arrived yesterday to visit her grandparents,

Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Heminway.-----

Mr. Tom Widdowson, of Mankato, Minn., visited his father and other friends from Thursday until Saturday last.-----

Miss Mary Zimmerman who has been spending a few weeks with her parents at Avoka, Wis., returned Monday evening.----

-----Died, June 27, 1893, in the early morning, Betsy Thomas, widow of Salmon

Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Stowell, of Antwerp, N.Y., and mother of

Mrs. Mary Goff, of Walnut, Kansas, Mrs.

Helen Conrick, of Chicago, Mr. Fred Thomas, of this place, and Judge A. D. Thomas,

of North Dakota. She was born in Antwerp seventy-seven years ago, and came

to Wisconsin a bride in 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were among the earliest settlers

in this vicinity, were well and widely known and much loved and respected.

Mr. Thomas died almost six years ago. (The Delavan Enterprise, Thursday, June 29, 1893)

**North Walworth** – On Thursday, July 4th, 1889, of Scarlet Fever, Lydia May, youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Buckles, of North Walworth, aged one year, nine months and nine days, died. She was an unusually bright and attractive child and her death is a sad blow to the stricken parents. (The Delavan Enterprise, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1889)

**East Delavan** – Mrs. Hubbel, and daughter, Miss Lulu, of Marinette, Wis., are the guests of her sister, Mrs. G. B. DeGroff.-----

-----We are sorry to note that S. J. Hollister is seriously ill with rheumatism of the heart.-----

A.R. Ball purchased a fine new road buggy at Elkhorn last week.-----

-----Mrs. G. B. DeGroff returned from her eastern visit last Monday. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, August 9, 1900)

**Brick Church – Walworth** – Geo. Cunningham is on the sick list.-----

D. H. Spensley made a business trip to Janesville last Saturday.-----

Miss Hattie Hailey, of Nebraska, is here for a few weeks visit with friends.-----

Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Pearce drove over from Janesville Saturday to visit friends, returning home Sunday evening.-----

Leslie Ryer returned to his home in Kansas City last week Tuesday, after a week's visit with his parents here. (The Delavan Enterprise, Thursday, July 21, 1898)

## Looking for Someone to take over the Newsletter

I've been putting the newsletter together for about 6 years now, and I'm burning out. There are other projects that I would like to get into and although the newsletter doesn't really take that much time, I've run out of ideas for it. I'm sure there is someone else in our group who could do a much better job.



### Christmas Traditions

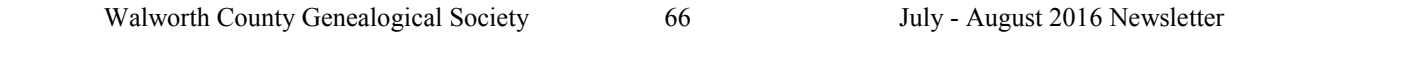
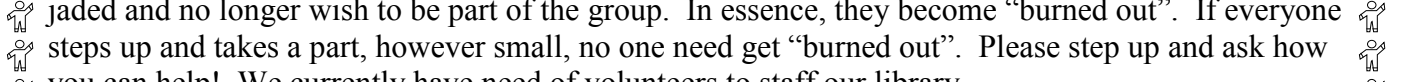
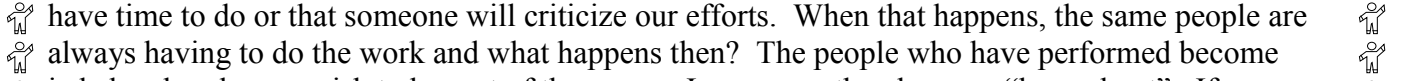
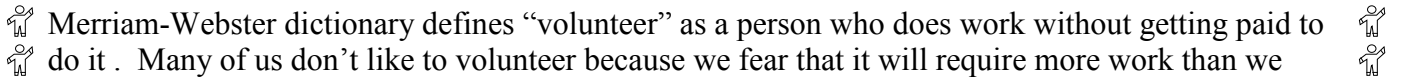


When I was a child, my father described the Christmas tree his family would have. They had candles that hung on the tree and would only light the candles on Christmas eve. They could not leave them unattended due to the fact that real trees could burn easily. He preferred the type of lights we used because he didn't have to worry about fire as much. Although he would look over the light strings for any frayed areas and immediately throw them out!

When I lived in Skokie, Illinois and worked in Chicago, I traveled by train to and from work. I had about a ten block walk from the train station to my apartment. I enjoyed the walk during the Christmas season more than any other time because the area of houses I had to go by would decorate to the hilt. One year I noticed a nativity scene where the manger did not have a baby Jesus. I called my sister, Mary, and told her I thought someone may have stolen the baby Jesus. She thought that was just terrible. Years later in a conversation with my sister, Jacqueline, I related the story about the empty manger to her. Jacqueline patiently explained that the baby Jesus isn't supposed to be in the manger until Christmas. Oh, duh! I'm so very glad that I didn't tell anyone else the story at the time. I still laugh at how stupidly naïve I was. Of course, my sister, Mary, was just as silly as I was!



### Volunteer

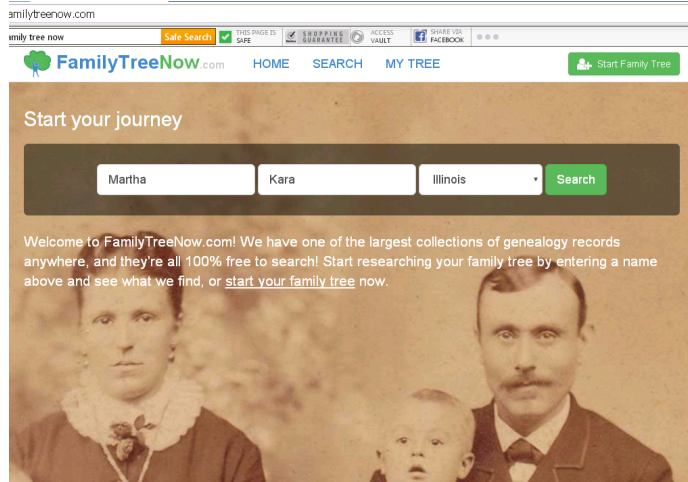


Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "volunteer" as a person who does work without getting paid to do it. Many of us don't like to volunteer because we fear that it will require more work than we have time to do or that someone will criticize our efforts. When that happens, the same people are always having to do the work and what happens then? The people who have performed become jaded and no longer wish to be part of the group. In essence, they become "burned out". If everyone steps up and takes a part, however small, no one need get "burned out". Please step up and ask how you can help! We currently have need of volunteers to staff our library.



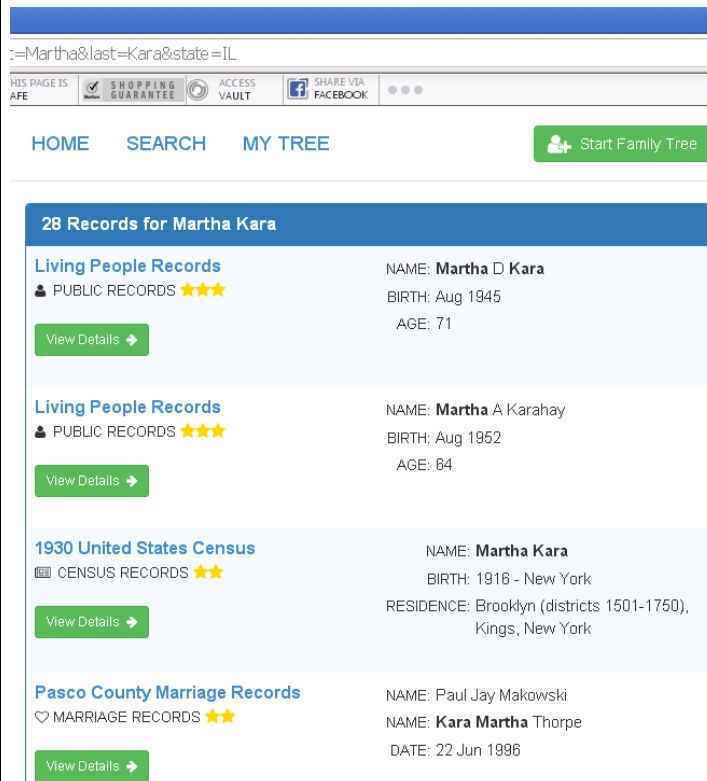
# Family Tree Now

The website familytreenow.com is a free genealogy site. Familytreenow.com was launched in 2014 by technology veterans who wanted to take information that is often only available by paid sites and make it free so everyone can use the information. All of the information can be found on other internet sites.



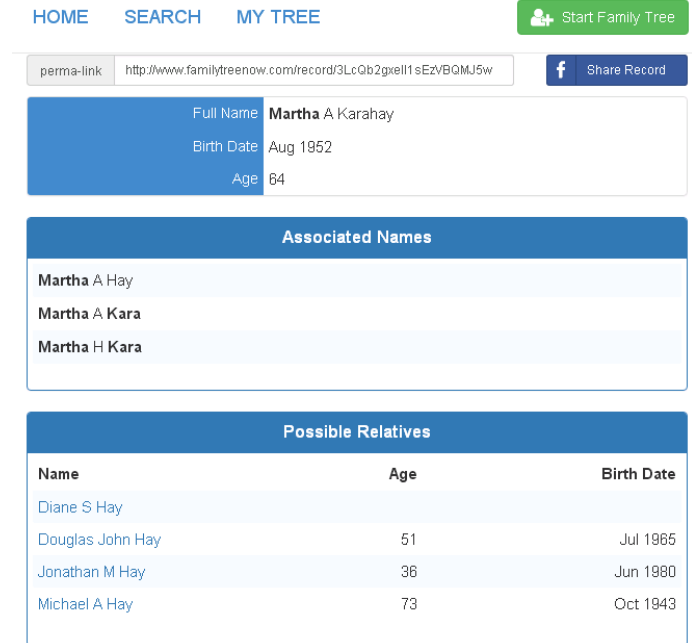
In this first screen, I've typed Martha (me) then Kara (my maiden name) then Illinois (I was born in Chicago, Illinois).

Hit Enter and this is what I get.

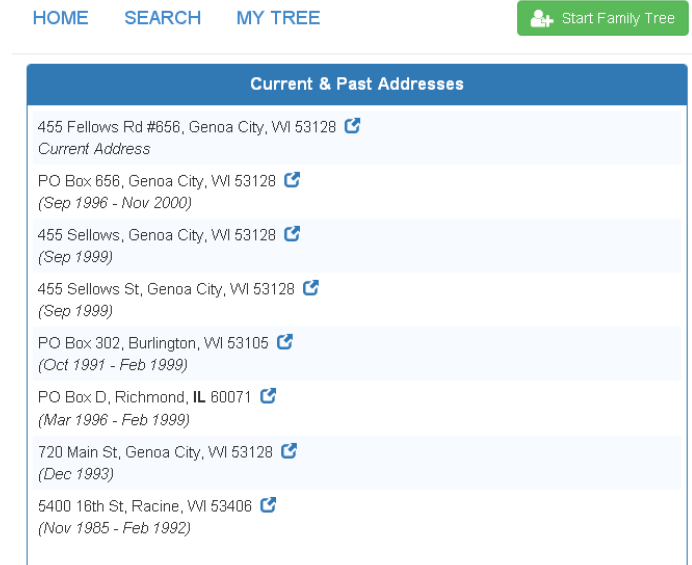


The first listing isn't me, I was born in August of 1952. The second listing has KaraHay for the last name. Could be me since my married name is Hay and I did have a credit card where I put my name as Martha Kara Hay.

So I select this one and here is the result:



Michael A Hay is my husband as you all know.

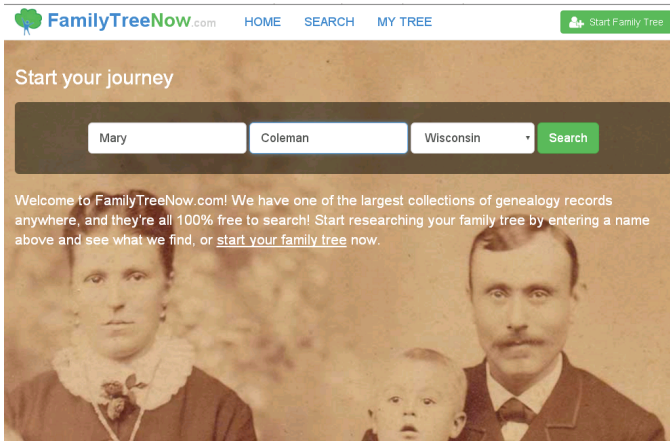


The current address is correct. The seventh address in the above listing is the house where I grew up. I have not lived there in over 30 years and it is amazing to have that address still associated with me.

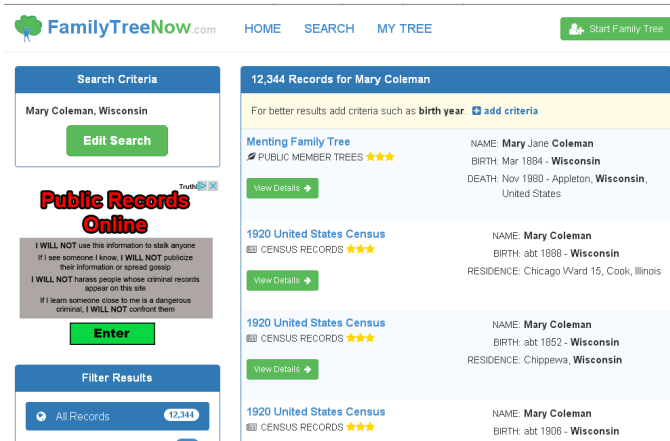
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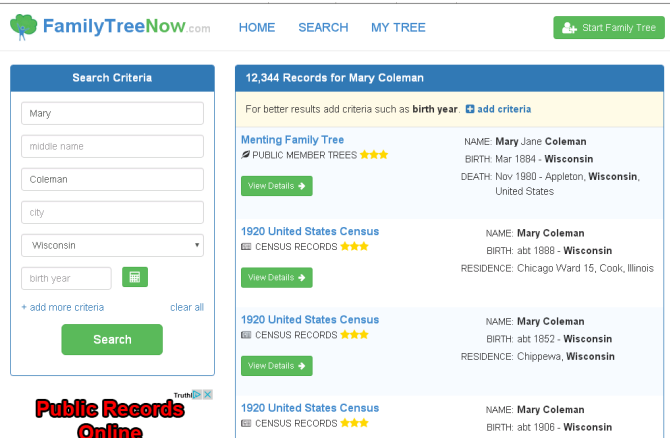
If you are searching for an ancestor, you probably won't get the address listing, but there is a good chance that you can find the census records.



For example, I did a search on Mike's great grandmother Mary Anne Coleman (nee Kehoe).

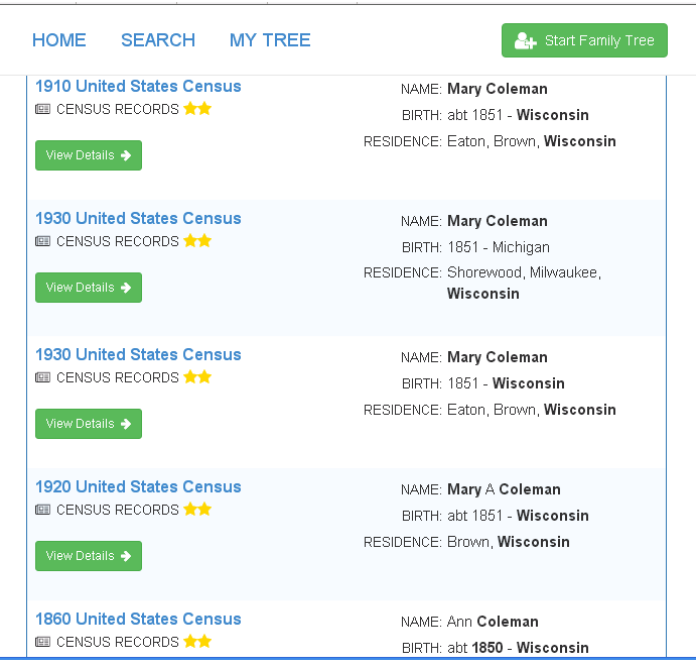


There are 12,344 records for Mary Coleman so it's not usable. However, you can edit the search a little by clicking Edit Search and you get the following:

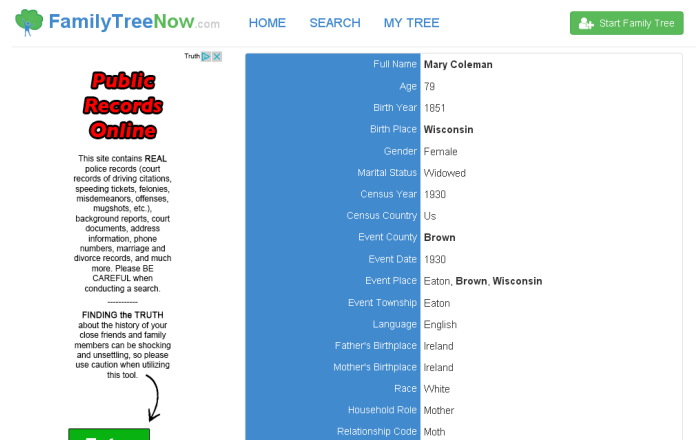


If I enter her birth year of 1850, the number of records while still large weeds out any Mary Coleman born in

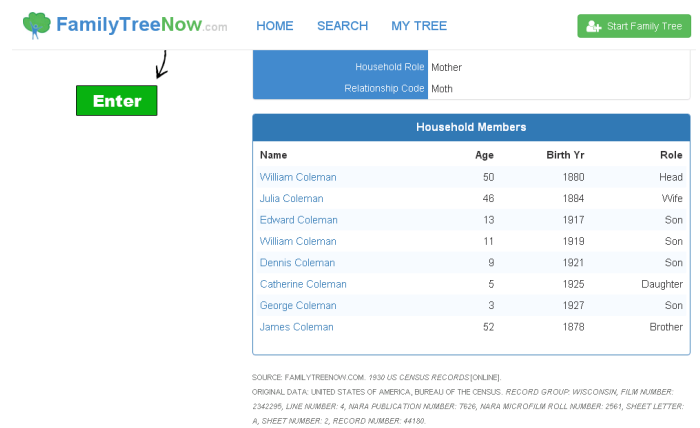
the 1900's.



I know that she was in Eaton Township, Brown County, Wisconsin. Clicking on the 1930 census I see this:



And further down the page:



SOURCE: FAMILYTREENOW.COM: 1930 US CENSUS RECORDS[ONLINE]. ORIGINAL DATA: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS. RECORD GROUP: WISCONSIN, FILM NUMBER: 2342395, LINE NUMBER: 4, NARA PUBLICATION NUMBER: T93, NARA MICROFILM ROLL NUMBER: 291, SHEET LETTER: A, SHEET NUMBER: 2, RECORD NUMBER: 4419.

Give it a try - it's free.



## *News from Neighboring Societies*

**Burlington Genealogical Society** - No meeting in December

**McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society** - Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm @ Colonial Café (5689 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake, IL) - Holiday Party

**British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL)** - Saturday, January 21, 2017 - Webinar Format - "The Quest for Your English Ancestors" Don't miss this webinar by Claire Brisson-Banks, an accredited genealogist (AG) in English research. English civil, church, and census records make doing research back to 1837 feasible. Pre-1837 research requires more skill and a greater knowledge of the variety of little known resources which can take you back to the 1600s and earlier. Add to that the variety of internet resources and English research becomes a joy to perform.

**Kenosha Genealogy Society** - Monday, December 12, 2016 - "Between the Lines: Documenting Found Letters and Living History from World War II" Monday, January 8, 2017-Jessica Michna Re-enactment "Mary Todd Lincoln: Preserve the Union"

**German Interest Group** - Monday, December 5th, 7:00 pm @ Saint Mark Lutheran, 2921 Mount Zion Avenue, Janesville Author and popular speaker Rochelle Pennington will tell the story of the Christmas Tree Ship and share her collection of artifacts. Christmas treats will be shared and Echo donations collected. This program is open to the public at no charge. For further information, contact John at 608-362-4311.

*Editor's note: If you have an announcement from any group you are a member of and would like to see it in our newsletter, please send me the information at [wgsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgsnewsletter@gmail.com)*

## **2017 Programs**

This December we will be selecting a new president at the Christmas Pot Luck dinner. The new board will meet two days after the meeting at the Community Center in Delavan at 1:30 pm. At this board meeting, the programs for 2017 will be discussed.

If you have any wishes for programs for the coming year, please either come to the meeting or drop an email to any of the board members letting them know.

The board welcomes and needs suggestions and ideas from the membership. It's not fair to **you, the members**, if only a few people make all these decisions without your input. Being a member gives you the power to make recommendations.

In 2016, we cancelled the Cemetery Walk. Would you like to see us have a Cemetery Walk this year? And if the answer is yes, what cemetery would you like us to do? Would you be willing to participate?

We are always trying to come up with ways to increase membership. We would like to bring in more go-getters. Do you have any suggestions on how to do this?

We are always looking for volunteers for various projects. The library could use more volunteers to help visitors do research and it is a wonderful way to share your expertise with the general public.

We also want to have more evening programs in Elkhorn either at the library or in the community room. If you would like to assist in these programs let us know. One of the tenets of our society is to educate.

Below is a survey to help the society be more responsive to our members and to assist us in gaining new members. Please fill it out and bring it to the next meeting or send it to WCGS, P.O. Box 159, Delavan, WI, 53115-0159, and make it attention to: WCGS Newsletter Editor or email it to [wgsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgsnewsletter@gmail.com). You, the members of WCGS, know what programs you would like to see. Without your input, we can only guess what you are interested in. Please help us make good decisions.

### Survey

1. Are there any past programs we have presented that you would like to have us repeat? If the answer is “yes” which programs and why?

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2. Would you be interested in a group research trip to the Newberry Library in Chicago or the Historical Society in Madison?

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3. What topics would you like to see as a program?

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4. What project or projects would you like to see the Society focus on?

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5. What suggestions do you have to help increase our membership?

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6. Would you be willing to take part in workshops presented by the Society?

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I'm desperately looking for more members to fill out the “Are You Related to Me?” form. If you need a form, email me at [wgsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgsnewsletter@gmail.com) and I will be glad to send it to you.



## WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENTS	Michael Hay Chris Brookes	455 Fellows Road 721 S. Curtis St. #139	Genoa City, WI Lake Geneva, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com cbrookes@wi.rr.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Weston	9601 N. Kyle Dr..	Whitewater, WI	wcgsvpres@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Marilyn Traver	473 E. Geneva St Lot 10	Elkhorn, WI	msearchin@hotmail.com
CO-TREASURERS	Martha Hay	455 Fellows Road	Genoa City, WI	m.k.hay.mh@gmail.com
DIRECTOR(S)	Diana Bird Karen Helwig Judy Rockwell Dolores Schutt		Harvard, IL Whitewater, WI Elkhorn, WI Clinton, WI	
OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay <a href="mailto:wcgsgnewsletter@gmail.com">wcgsgnewsletter@gmail.com</a> Library Committee: Diana Bird, Judy Rockwell, and Marilyn Traver Historian: Pat Blackmer			

Regular meetings of the WCGS are the first Tuesday of each month at the

**Delavan Community Centre, 826 E. Geneva St., Delavan, WI.**

Library Hours: Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, WI- Every Tues. 10-3pm  
other times by appt - call 262-279-6541

The membership year runs from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. The newsletter is published bi-monthly.

\*\*\*\*Dues are \$15 (\$100 Lifetime) for an individual, \$18.00 (\$200 Lifetime) for a family, \$25 contributing, \$7.50 student.  
\$5.00 additional per year to receive the newsletter through the mail.

MEMBERS: Want email meeting minutes or not?? Contact Marilyn Traver, [msearchin@hotmail.com](mailto:msearchin@hotmail.com)

**Visit the Walworth County website and uncover your roots! <http://www.walworthcgs.com>**

Email us at: [societynews@walworthcgs.com](mailto:societynews@walworthcgs.com)

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 159  
DELAVAN, WI 53115-0159