

Sarah Westfall Coleman (1844 - 1922)

Sarah Elizabeth Westfall was one of five children born to Samuel DeWitt Westfall III and Elizabeth Kipp. Sarah was born in Michigan in February 1844. Her father was born in Phelps, New York, in 1807.

The Westfall ancestors have a long history living in New York State, dating back to the mid-1600s when Sarah's fifth great grandfather, Jurian Westfall, immigrated from Holland and settled in Kingston, New York.

The 1860 Census shows Sarah, then 16, living with her parents and siblings on a farm in Belleville, Michigan.

Three years later, Sarah married Calvert Coleman. Their first child, William Henry Coleman, was born in 1864. Between 1866 and 1876, Sarah gave birth to six more children.

In November 1876, the mortgage on Sarah and Calvert's home was in default. A notice in the Detroit Free Press shows that the place was put up for auction on February 28, 1877.

Sarah's last child, Arthur Roy Coleman, was born seven years later in 1884. Sarah and her husband Calvert separated when Roy was a teenager.

The 1900 Census shows Sarah and Roy living with Roy's oldest brother, William, in Detroit. Calvert was shown as living with his son Claud and Claud's wife Jennie and their two children in Van Buren township.

After she and Calvert divorced, Sarah remarried James Renton in 1910. They lived in Van Buren Township. James died in 1918. Sarah's obituary notice says that she moved in with her daughter, Jennie

Coleman Freer, in Highland Park during the last six months of Sarah's life. Sarah died there in 1922. The funeral was held from the home at 39 Geneva Street. The house was located less than two blocks from the apartment on Woodward and Six Mile where Roy Coleman, his wife Margaret, and their children Jean, Betty, and Murray lived. Dodd Coleman, Roy's son from a prior marriage, also lived in the household.

Murray Frear Coleman was born on July 26, 1920. Since Murray's family lived so close to the residence of his Aunt Jennie, it is reasonable to assume that Sarah had the pleasure of holding her grandson Murray and seeing him begin to walk and talk before she passed away.

Sarah was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery on April 4, 1922 on a plot owned by her son-in-law, William Skerrett. William was the husband of Sarah's daughter Addie. He operated a funeral home in Detroit.



Sarah died at 39 Geneva Street in Highland Park.