



Meeting Other Family Historians

My formal search for information about my ancestors began in May 2010. While browsing through the Internet that month I became familiar with the online genealogy services of ancestry.com. I became a member of ancestry.com on May 8, 2010. Two days later, I was doing a general Internet search with google.com and I came across a webpage that mentioned my paternal grandfather, Arthur Roy Coleman. I noticed that the information was posted by Clarice Coleman. I immediately sent her an email, introducing myself as a grandchild of Arthur Roy Coleman and asking her to contact me. Two days later I heard back from her. That was the start of an ongoing genealogy relationship.

Clarice is the wife of Robert Coleman. Robert is my second cousin – a descendant of Claude Coleman who was a brother of my grandfather Roy. When I found Clarice, I struck genealogy gold. I soon discovered that she knew more about the ancestors of my paternal grandfather than anyone on Earth. She had researched the family history of Calvert Coleman and Sarah Westfall (grandpa Roy's parents and the great grandparents of her husband Bob), both backwards and forwards. Beginning in the 1970s, she spent countless hours over the course of several decades researching Coleman and Westfall family history. Fortunately, I was able to find answers to many of my Coleman ancestry questions in a book written by Clarice on Coleman and Westfall family history.

Clarice introduced me to another branch of the Coleman family – the Samuel Coleman branch. Samuel was another brother of my grandfather Roy. That introduction enabled me to meet about 50 previously unknown Coleman cousins at two family reunions in Canton, Michigan. I was also able to interview the eldest cousin in that branch, Leslie Coleman, and his wife Marilyn.

A few years ago, when my spouse Michael and I were traveling in Colorado, we were able to visit Bob and Clarice at their home in Longmont, Colorado. We had a lovely day together.

I have stayed in touch with Clarice and Bob by email during the past several years. We sometimes exchange new tidbits of family history information with each other. I am very grateful for all the genealogy work they have done and their willingness to share the fruits of their labors with me.