

# Respect Your Elders

A Family History Tour ◇◇◇ April 13 - April 19, 2011

I am coming to Michigan in April to conduct a one-week tour of various locations to gather information on the family history of Murray Coleman and Kathleen Steil.

Various branches of the family tree will be the focus of the tour, including the following surnames of their paternal and maternal ancestors. On Murray's side it is the Coleman and Paterson families. On Kay's side it is the Steil and Lukaschewski families.

One aspect of the tour involves interviewing the oldest living members of some of the sub-branches of the family. The other involves visiting the grave sites of deceased family members to pay respects, clean the headstones, take photos of the grave site, and obtain any documents the cemetery office might have about that relative.

This tour is part of the ongoing family history project that I have been working on for the past year. Through my research, I have identified 1,297 people to whom we are related through the four major branches of our family tree. More than 400 of them are alive today.

The elders of our families have a wealth of information they can share with current and future generations. Some of them were born in the 1920s or earlier. What was life like growing up in the depression or during a World War? What memories do they have of their parents who were born before the turn of the century? What stories did they hear about the struggles and accomplishments of their grandparents? What old family photos do they have?

Several people will be interviewed. They include:

- Larry Coleman (oldest of Murray-Kay branch)
- Charles Basler (oldest of Casper-Betty branch)
- Betty Basler (oldest of Arthur Roy Coleman branch)
- Leslie Coleman (oldest of Samuel Coleman branch)
- Dorothy Steil (2<sup>nd</sup> oldest of George Steil branch)
- Betty Steil (oldest of George Steil branch)
- Bill Steil (oldest of William Steil branch)
- James Fry (oldest of Anna Steil branch)
- William Stacey (oldest of Mabel Paterson branch)

Trips to various cemeteries are also on the agenda. On Wednesday, April 13, Larry and I will visit three cemeteries in the Detroit area. Let us know if you want to join us.

**Woodlawn Cemetery** (Woodward and 7 Mile) is the burial place of: paternal great grandmother Sarah Coleman; her daughters Jennie Coleman Freer and Addie Coleman

Skerett; her son Arthur Roy Coleman; Roy's daughter Jean; and our aunt Agnes Paterson Murray.

**Oakview Cemetery** in Royal Oak is the resting place of grandpa Roy Coleman's oldest brother, William Henry Coleman and William's his two children, George and Sarah. They all lived in Ferndale.

**Mount Olivet Cemetery** (Six Mile and Van Dyke) will have two visits. The first, on April 13, will be to verify the location of several graves, some of which we have never seen, and to determine the condition of the headstones and surrounding area so we can bring proper garden tools to clean up the area when we return a few days later. Some new-found Lukaschewski family members might join us on Sunday, April 17, to pay respects to our great-great grandmother Louisa

Lukaschewski and her descendants who are buried there, including her sons Rudolph (our maternal great grandfather) and Albert (their paternal great grandfather).

**Hillside Cemetery in Belleville** will be visited on Monday, April 18. Our paternal great grandfather, Calvert Coleman, is buried there, along with 7 other Coleman relatives. We also will visit nearby **Otisville Cemetery**, where the parents and grandparents of our great grandmother Sarah Westfall Coleman are buried. Afterwards, we will go to the home of Leslie Coleman

who is the son of our great uncle Samuel Coleman, and the grandson of our great grandparents Calvert Coleman and Sarah Westfall. The interview will follow a lunch at his home.

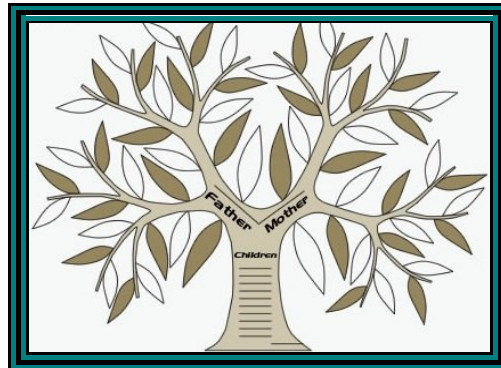
**Maple Leaf Cemetery** in Chatham, Ontario, will get a visit on Tuesday, April 19. Several Paterson relatives are buried there, including our great grandparents John Paterson and Fanny Hope. We will meet and interview William Stacey, son of Bert Stacey and Mabel Paterson. Mabel was the sister of grandma Finney, aunt Agnes, and aunt Belle.

Visits will also be made to Sanilac Cemetery where grandma Finney and uncle Cap are buried, as well as Eastlawn Cemetery where Murray and Kay are buried.

I am inviting all of my siblings to join me for the entire tour, or portions of it which may interest you the most or which fit into your schedule. Nieces and nephews and their spouses are also invited to participate.

A confirmed itinerary is attached. Please let me know which events you would like to be a part of so I can mark you down.

– Tom Coleman



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## Confirmed Schedule

Date	Staying with	Event	Location	Status	Participants
Tues Apr 12	Larry/Ann	arrive Detroit	pick up at airport	confirmed	Larry
Wed Apr 13	Larry/Ann	Visit cemeteries  Dinner at Larry's Interview Larry	Oakview - Royal Oak Woodlawn - Detroit Mount Olivet - Detroit  Larry' & Ann's house	confirmed  confirmed	Larry Tom
Thur Apr 14	Larry/Ann	Interviews: Dorothy Steil Storz Bill Steil James Fry	St. Clair Shores	all confirmed	Larry Tom Ken Steil
Fri Apr 15	Diane/Ray	Interviews: Betty Steil Ashby Jack Ashby	Three Rivers	interviews confirmed	Tom Larry Ken Steil Diane Steil
Sat Apr 16	Diane/Ray	Interviews: Betty Basler Charles Basler  Visit cemetery	Carsonville Port Sanilac	interviews confirmed  cemetery visit confirmed	Tom Diane
Sun Apr 17	Diane/Ray	Visit cemetery & clean grave sites  Meet the Lukaschewskis?	Mount Olivet - Detroit  at Mt. Olivet?	cemetery visit confirmed  meeting with relatives pending	Tom Diane
Mon Apr 18	Carolyn/Steve	Visit cemeteries  Lunch & Interview: Leslie Coleman	Hillside – Belleville Otisville - Belleville  Ypsilanti - at his home	cemetery visits confirmed  interview confirmed	Tom Diane Carolyn
Tues Apr 19	Carolyn/Steve	Visit cemetery  Lunch & Interview: William Stacey	Maple Leaf – Chatham  Chatham - at his home	cemetery visit confirmed  interview confirmed	Tom Carolyn
Wed Apr 20	Carolyn/Steve	Visit cemetery	Eastlawn – Lake Orion	confirmed	Tom
Thur Apr 21		leave Detroit	drop off at airport	pending	

Please let Tom know the event or events you want to participate in. (818) 482-4495 / [tomcoleman@earthlink.net](mailto:tomcoleman@earthlink.net)  
All events will be photographed, audio taped, and video taped. Tapes and photos will be available on the website.