

THE CROWLEY PIONEERS



Mary Keefe and Patrick Crowley Sr. married in the early 1800's in Ireland.

In the Southeastern town of Lismore, County Waterford, Ireland, Mary and Patrick Sr. had 5 children that we know of and have documented. In all likelihood, there were other children. The 5 children came to the USA.

The five werePatrick Jr, born March 3, 1825, Edward born February 4, 1830, John Francis born February 27, 1833, Alice born June 22, 1836 and Johanna born March 13, 1827.

These children have been documented by obtaining church birth/baptismal records from the archives of St. Carthage's Catholic Church, Lismore, County Waterford in Ireland. Copies of the original birth/baptismal records (of Patrick, Edward, John, Alice and Johanna) were obtained through the Waterford Heritage Organization, Patrick Street, City of Waterford, Waterford County, Ireland.

The Griffith's Valuation of Ireland in the mid 1850's suggests that Patrick Sr. lived in the Kilnacarriga area of the village of Lismore.



Mary (nee O'Keefe) Crowley brought the family to Americas.

Mary's husband Patrick Sr. was not with them having either died during the famine in Ireland or died on the sailing ship to America.

Patrick Jr. had previously traveled to America then Mary and the family followed.

Mary is buried at Kneeland Cemetery in Seneca, Wisconsin.

Her name also appears on a Crowley family monument at St. Patrick Cemetery in Seneca, Wisconsin.

Mary (nee O'Keefe) Crowley...wife of Patrick Sr.

Lismore, County Waterford, Ireland

Patrick Crowley and Mary (Keefe) Crowley lived in the Lismore, County Waterford, area. They attended St. Carthage's Catholic Parish Church. Their children are recorded as being baptized catholic at St. Carthage's. Lismore means "great ringfort". Lismore is a small but historic and beautiful "Heritage" town on the Blackwater River (known for great salmon fishing) in County Waterford, in the province of Munster. The castle in Lismore is part of the estate of the Duke of Devonshire and remains occupied and in operation. The 12th century castle is situated on the site of the old monastery of medieval times. It lies on a steep hill overlooking the town and the Blackwater River valley. The castle has been owned by Sir Walter Raleigh, the Boyle family, as well as the Dukes of Devonshire. The Book of Lismore (a compilation of medieval manuscripts mainly relating to the lives of Irish saints, notably St. Brigid, St. Patrick and St. Columba) was found in the Lismore Castle in 1814 behind a blocked up doorway. Lismore is an Ireland "Tidy Town". There are Crowley families residing in Lismore today.

Today's St. Carthage Church was built in 1884. The original St. Carthage Catholic church (built 1633) in Lismore still stands and is now the building of the Anglican Church in Lismore. There is a cemetery adjacent to both the new and older St. Carthage's Church as well as a St. Carthage's Cemetery a short walking distance from the new (1884) St. Carthage church. There are Crowley's in all the cemeteries. There is also a grave area of those (no individual headstones) that passed away during the famine.



USA ARRIVAL

To escape the religious and political discrimination they experienced primarily at the hands of the English, thousands of Irish left their homeland in the 19th century. The great influx of Irish immigrants came to North America (and Australia) during what became to be known as the "Great Potato Famine" of the late 1840's. Thousands left Ireland. Many did not live through the long sea passage. Time at sea from Ireland to New York

Research suggests Patrick Jr. age 20 came alone on the sailing ship "Swan" in September 4, 1889. Patrick made his way to SW Wisconsin.

Mary (Keefe) Crowley, age 50 and children Edward age 20, John age 18, and Alice age 14 arrived on the sailing ship "Constitution" in Castle Garden, New York Harbor on October 28, 1852. The sailing ship departed Liverpool, England months before its arrival in New York.

Johanna's arrival date/ship is unknown.

when they boarded and the journey only added to their sickness. Below deck, they would huddle together with little ventilation breathing the stench of vomit and the effects of diaherra and lack of sanitary conditions. There were no mattresses. There was lack of drinking water. What water there was often caused dysentery.

Emigrants were advised to arrive in the departure harbor city at least two days before departure. The crew of the ship would either allow passengers to board the day before or to board the day of. The passengers would board and hand over their tickets. The crew would attempt to verify ages as there were different fares based on age. The ship's surgeon would check over each boarding passenger. There was an effort made to note any boarding passenger who was "helpless or deformed" as New York charges a "helpless or deformed" passenger a \$1.50 "poll tax". The ship owner was subject to being fined if he transported "helpless or deformed". The ship captain had the option to refuse passage to any helpless or deformed." With their tickets approved, and the surgeon's ok, the passengers were free to go below deck to their berths. The 6-week to 12-week voyage would then be underway....maybe. There were often delays in the departure...loading delays, poor weather.

In August of 1852, Mary and the family would have arrived in Liverpool. 1852 was a record breaking year for emigrants leaving from Liverpool. 229,099 left on approximately 925 ships. Nearly 188,000 were destined for the United States. In Liverpool, Mary and the family would be in a city that had a reputation of being the most criminally infested city in England. Harassment and fraud was perpetrated on many of the migrants waiting to board their ships. Thieves would steal belongings. Swindlers would sell counterfeit ships passage tickets. Cheats would also exchange Irish money for USA dollars and not provide for a fair exchange rate.

The financial burden of feeding the Irish emigrants brought Liverpool to the brink of financial disaster. The cheap lodging houses were jammed. Emigrants waiting for passage moved into musty cellars, condemned and abandoned buildings or anywhere just to find a place to rest. Amid these conditions, typhus reared its head and an epidemic followed, accompanied by an outbreak of dysentery. The emigrants were also subject to being deported back to Ireland based on a British law put in place in 1847. To avoid deportation some Irish moved to other parts of England. It is possible this is the reason Johanna stayed in England.

If Mary and the family arrived in Liverpool without a "pre-purchased" ticket, they would have found those selling tickets overwhelming. Competition among the passage brokers was fierce. Fare could vary by day-to-day or hour-to-hour. A ticket in "steerage" would range (in US dollars) from \$17 to \$20 for those 14 and older and \$10 to \$15 for children under 14. Once with tickets in hand, Mary and the family would have had to have the tickets stamped by the medical inspectors called the "Doctor's Shop." English law required that all passengers leaving to be free from any contagious disease.

Patrick Sr. was not with any of the family when they arrived in the USA. These were the “famine times” in 1845-1848 Ireland and it is most likely Patrick Sr. passed away in Ireland prior to the family boarding the ship to the USA.

After a stay in Upper State New York, the family traveled by train to Madison and then ox cart to join Patrick Jr. in SW Wisconsin.

SETTLING DOWN

The 3 brothers (Patrick, Edward and John) settled in the mid to late 1850’s on three adjacent farms on the high ground in the township of Seneca, Crawford County. Patrick Jr., Edward and John Francis each owned a farm. The land initially became theirs through the federal “ Land Grant” program. Over time, each brother expanded their holdings. Paperwork and titling was filed in Mineral Point, WI. The area they farmed became known as Crowley Ridge. The area remains known as Crowley Ridge today.



SW WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CHURCHES

The story of the SW Wisconsin Crowley’s is intricately tied to the catholic churches of SW Wisconsin...St. Gabriel’s of Prairie du Chien, St. Patrick’s of Seneca, St. James of Rising Sun. All churches have cemeteries and Crowley’s can be found in these cemeteries as well as other area cemeteries including Big Axe.



FEDERAL CENSUS

Patrick Jr. (1824-1914) is found in the 1860, 1880, 1900, 1910 Federal Census.

John Francis (1833-1898) is found in the 1860, 1870 and 1880 Federal Census.

Edward (1830-1904) is found in the 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900 Federal census.

Johanna is found in 1860 and 1880 Federal census.

Mother Mary (Keefe) Crowley (1807-1862) and child Alice (1836-????) have not, as of yet, been located in any Federal Census.

MARRIAGES and CHILDREN



Patrick Jr. (1824-1914) married Hanora Joy (1830-1865)...5 children and after Hanora Joy's death married Hanora Brennan (1846-1888)...17 children.

Edward (1830-1904) married Elizabeth Murphy (1841-1930)...16 children

John Francis (1833-1898) married Margaret Sweeney (1840-1905)...12 children.

Johanna married Michael Connell (1820-1858) ...5 children and then Dennis Crawford (1820-1867)...1 child.

Alice (1836-???) married Michael Coleman (1833-???)...? Children.



LAI D TO REST...KNEELAND and ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERIES

The matriarch of the family, May (Keefe) Crowley passed away on December 23, 1862 and was buried in Kneeland Cemetery. Kneeland Cemetery is owned and maintained by the Catholic Diocese of Lacrosse and St. Patrick's Church of Seneca. When founded, Kneeland Cemetery was under the authority of the Milwaukee Diocese. Kneeland is a small cemetery located on a private farm in Seneca. The interments of Kneeland primarily preceded 1860.

St. Patrick's Church of Seneca and the St. Patrick's Church cemetery opened in 1874 on land donated by the Garvey family. After that time, virtually all 1800's and early 1900's Crowley burials in the area were at St. Patrick's or at Rising Sun. No other Crowley burials took place at Kneeland.

Newspaper accounts state that many of the remains laid to rest at Kneeland were transferred to St. Patrick's Cemetery after it began operating in 1874. No known record of exactly who was transferred has been located.

A 4' tall white marble like obelisk type monument marks Mary's grave at Kneeland Cemetery. This is the tallest monument in the cemetery. The condition is fair and the inscriptions on the stone are becoming difficult to decipher. Very few stones remain in the cemetery and those that do tend to be in relatively poor condition. St. Patrick's Church in Seneca helps to maintain the cemetery.

Buried with Mary in Mary's plot at Kneeland are some of her grandchildren and a daughter-in-law....

-Joseph... died January 12, 1866...age 21 days, (son of John Francis and Margaret Sweeney);

-Edward... died April 13, 1865...age 1 mo., 22 days (son of Edward and Elizabeth Murphy);

-Hanora... died December 9, 1865... age 35 years (1st wife of Patrick Jr.);

Elizabeth... died...August 10, 1862... age 5 mo., 10 days (daughter of Patrick Jr. and Hanora) ;

John... died August 29, 1868 ...age 7 mo. (son of Patrick, Jr. and Hanora)

The 3 pioneer brothers...Patrick Jr (1824-1914), Edward (1830-1904) and John Francis (1833-1898) (Lot 1 Block 27) are buried at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Seneca. Many of their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren are now buried there as well. A CD has been made of the burial plot map of St. Patrick's Cemetery. There are over 40 Crowley surname burials at St. Patrick's cemetery in Seneca, WI. There additional burials of females who had Crowley maiden names.

"EARLY" OBITUARIES from the KICKAPOO CHIEF (WAUZEKA, WI) NEWSPAPER

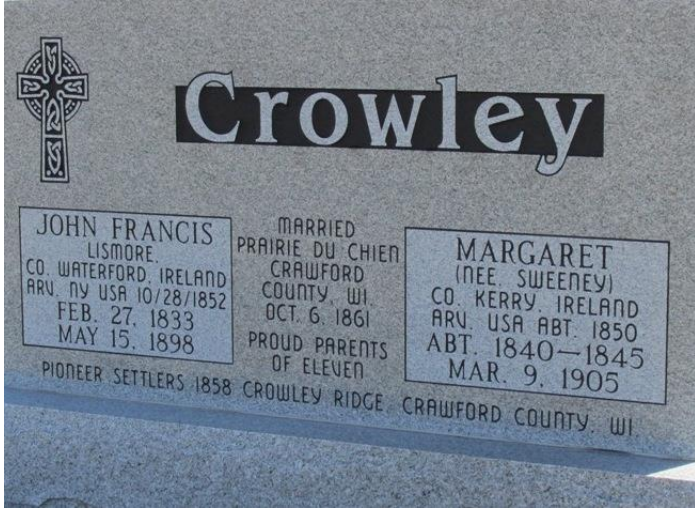


Patrick Crowley Jr. (1824-1914)

John Francis Crowley (1833-1898)

Margaret (Sweeney) Crowley (1840-1905)...wife of John Francis (1833-1898)

James E. Crowley (1879-1950)...husband of Catherine Cull (1895-1971) son of Edward Crowley (1830-1904)



Mrs. Margaret Crowley.

Mrs. Margaret Crowley was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1840 and died March 9, 1905, at 2:30 a.m. after an illness of about three weeks. She came to the United States with her parents when she was nine years old, settling at Madison, where her father died a few months later which required her and her mother to battle with life and earn their own living. They moved to Prairie du Chien, where she was married to John Crowley in 1859. To them 11 children were born, six sons and five daughters of which nine remain five sons and four daughter. Her husband John Crowley died May 13, 1898 and left her with the responsibilities of the family, which duties she fulfilled to the letter. The remains were laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery at Seneca, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. Fr. Keeley. She leaves to mourn her loss besides her children many other relatives. Mrs. Crowley was highly respected by all and was a true type of the faithful wife and a kind indulgent mother and will be sadly missed by the bereaved ones.

A precious one from us has flown,

A voice we loved is stilled:

A place is vacant in our home

Which never can be filled.

God in his wisdom has recalled

The boon his love had given,

And though the body slumbers
here,

The soul is safe in Heaven.

One who loved her.

Mrs. Wilgmina Brickner.



THE KICKAPOO CHIEF.

BELLOWS & THOMSON - PUBLISHERS

91.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

THURSDAY MAY 21, 1898.

GAYS MILLS.

New Church will be Completed. Memorial Exercises. Old Settlers Picnic.

MAY 23.—We were favored last week with frequent refreshing showers, which brought forth the leaves very rapidly.

Messrs. Russell and Smith of Vinona, did business in our village last week, and also transacted business with the firm here.

Miss Kate Stevenson, who was employed at J. H. Gilligan's, has returned to her home in Steuben.

J. L. Stowell and Steve Brown are attending to business matters in Prairie du Chien this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Haynes and daughter spent Sunday with relatives in Belle Centre.

Garfield Lester is the proud possessor of a '98 wheel.

Mrs. Eph Pilsenberger is rapidly recovering from the effects of the surgical operation performed last week.

Alex Feldmann, of Wauzeka, was a caller in town Monday.

Mrs. Gray and Brown boarded the K V & N. for Soldiers Grove last Saturday, returning in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hays were in

SENECA

Death of an old Settler. Examination for Graduation.

MAY 22.—Jos. Smethurst, of Madison, greeted friends at this place last week.

A. N. Searle passed through town Wednesday on his way to Lynxville from Barnum.

Editor Bellows was seen on our streets last week.

Supt. E. E. Brindley, of Soldiers Grove, conducted the examination for graduation from the graded school here Tuesday.

The Misses Finley, of Rising Sun, were seen in town Sunday.

Mrs. P. F. Clancy of Soldiers Grove, is visiting here, the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Kane.

M. J. Crowley, of Steuben, Sundayed in town.

D. Lawrence, of Petersburg passed through town Sunday.

E. Correy is attending court at Prairie du Chien this week.

J. Maney and B. Lawler of Lynxville attended church here Sunday.

The dance given at Finley's Hall last Tuesday evening by D. Kins, was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The remains of John Crowley, Sr., who died at his home on Pine Creek, were interred in the Catholic cemetery, Sunday, May 15th. The deceased being one of the early settlers, was well known throughout this vicinity. He leaves a wife, nine children and two brothers to mourn his loss. The entire community extend their heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved ones.

Joe Bernier, of Towerville, spent Sunday with relatives here.

STUBEN

New Buildings. Good Temper. Boom.

MAY 23.—We are glad to report Uncle John Farris some better.

Dr. Dillman has his new dwelling under way.

Mrs. Francis Jenkins is quite sick.

Mrs. Rob Campbell is once more able to greet her many friends after a tussle with measles.

James Shields, J. P. McKinney and Forest Harnes have their new dwellings nearly completed.

Henry Hamilton has the cellar to his new house done.

David Syverson, that bustling young merchant who knows how to cut prices as well as cloth, has just put in a fine stock of new goods.

The Steuben boys played baseball with the Grant Hollow boys Sunday, beating them by a score of 24 to 2.

A man passed through Steuben last Thursday with nine large rattlesnakes in a sack, captured in this vicinity.

Our farmers are all busy planting corn.

The rains have been a great blessing for small grain.

Uncle Dave Posey of Barnum, is soon to locate in North Steuben.

We are glad to report that our I. O. G. T. lodge is again taking a boom, as several new members are to be taken in Saturday evening.

Geo. Duwee has a fine lot of farm machinery for sale in his shop in Steuben.

Subscribe for the CHIEF, the best paper in the county.

WHEATVILLE.

Homesakers' Excursion via Burlington Route

On May 22, and 17th, June 1st, and 5th, the Burlington Route will sell Homesakers' Excursion Tickets at one fare plus 42.50, for the round trip to points south, north and west, for further particulars address agent Prairie du Chien, Mo. 41.

Burlington Route

Electric Lighted Cafe Dining Car

LINE.

FOR SALE

IN CRAWFORD CO., WIS.

New Lands, ...

Good Quality.

SECTIONS	TOWNSHIP	RANGE
11, 12, 21, 27	8	6
8, 20	9, 10	5, 6
12, 23, 24	9, 10	5, 6

Apply to

AUBLEY MCAULEY,
Mt. Sterling, Crawford Co. Wis.

M. J. Power Co

General Commission

Marriage to Margaret M. Noswery Sweeney on Oct 6, 1861 recorded at St. James Catholic Church at Rising, Sun, WI 1900 Census: Reports 10 children born and 9 still living. Obit says 11 born, 9 living

John Francis Crowley Married Catherine Spinner on Oct 30, 1894 in Ossian, IA

Alice Crowley Living with Edward J. Still married to Oliver Mead—they had another child in 1908.

Michael Mick James Crowley Married 1920 or 1921 to Genevieve Mc Namara. Moved to Manitowoc in 1943, worked as a painter.

Name	Gorski	Baptism/	Source	Census	Census	John's	Census	Census	Census	Census	Census	Census	After
	Harvey	Burial	Seneca	Seneca	Probate	Eastman	Eastman	Eastman	Eastman	Eastman	Eastman	Eastman	1940
John Francis			13-Jul 1870	11-Jun 1880	13-May 1898	June 2-4 1900	1-Jun 1905	Apr 16-1 1910	Feb 9-10 1920	26-Apr 1930	10-May 1940		
Margaret Sweeney			32-1838	42-1838	d. 1898		1845	d. 1905					
Patsey	Son	1862	8-1862										
Mary Patricia	Dau	1862/63	9/16/1862	17-1862	d. 1892								
John Francis	Son	1864	11/11/1864	6-1864	15-1865	34-1864	31-1868	43-1867	54-1865	66-1863	d. 1938		
Margaret	Dau	1865		5-1865	d. 1870								
Joseph	Son	1865	Kneeland	d. 1866									
Edward J	Son	1868		4-1866	12-1868	30-1868	27-1872	34-1871	40-1870	50-1870	60-1870	73-1867	d. Aft 1940
Bridget L	Dau	1870/69		.5-1870	d. 1870								
Alice	Dau	1870		10-1870	10-1870	27-1873	31-1874	36-1874	42-1878	52-1878	d. Aft 1953		
Patrick J	Son	1873	3/22/1873	7-1873	25-1873	22-1878	28-1877	34-1876	46-1874	52-1878	d. Aft 1930		
Margaret Maggie	Dau	1878/75		5-1875	20-1878	21-1878	23-1882	31-1879	44-1876	50-1880	65-1875	d. Aft 1940	
Hannah Johannah	Dau	1878		2-1878	19-1879	20-1880	26-1879	32-1878	42-1878	d. Bef 1930			
Bryan Joseph Byrc	Son	1880/82		18-1880	18-1881	24-1881		37-1883	d. 11/1932				
Michael Mick James	Son	1883/84	2/22/1883	15-1883	16-1884	21-1884	28-1882	35-1885	46-1884	54-1886	d. 6/1953		
Kathryn Kate	Dau	1889	1/16/1887	10-1888	12-1887	17-1888	22-1888	31-1889	40-1890	51-1889	d. 2/1948		

Mary Patricia Crowley Birthdate Sep 19, 1862 based on Baptismal record from St. James Catholic Church at Rising, Sun, WI. Patsey Crowley First-born Son-only shows up on the 1870 Census. Believe they are same person.

Alice Crowley Married Oliver Mead (1867-1943) on Nov 17, 1895

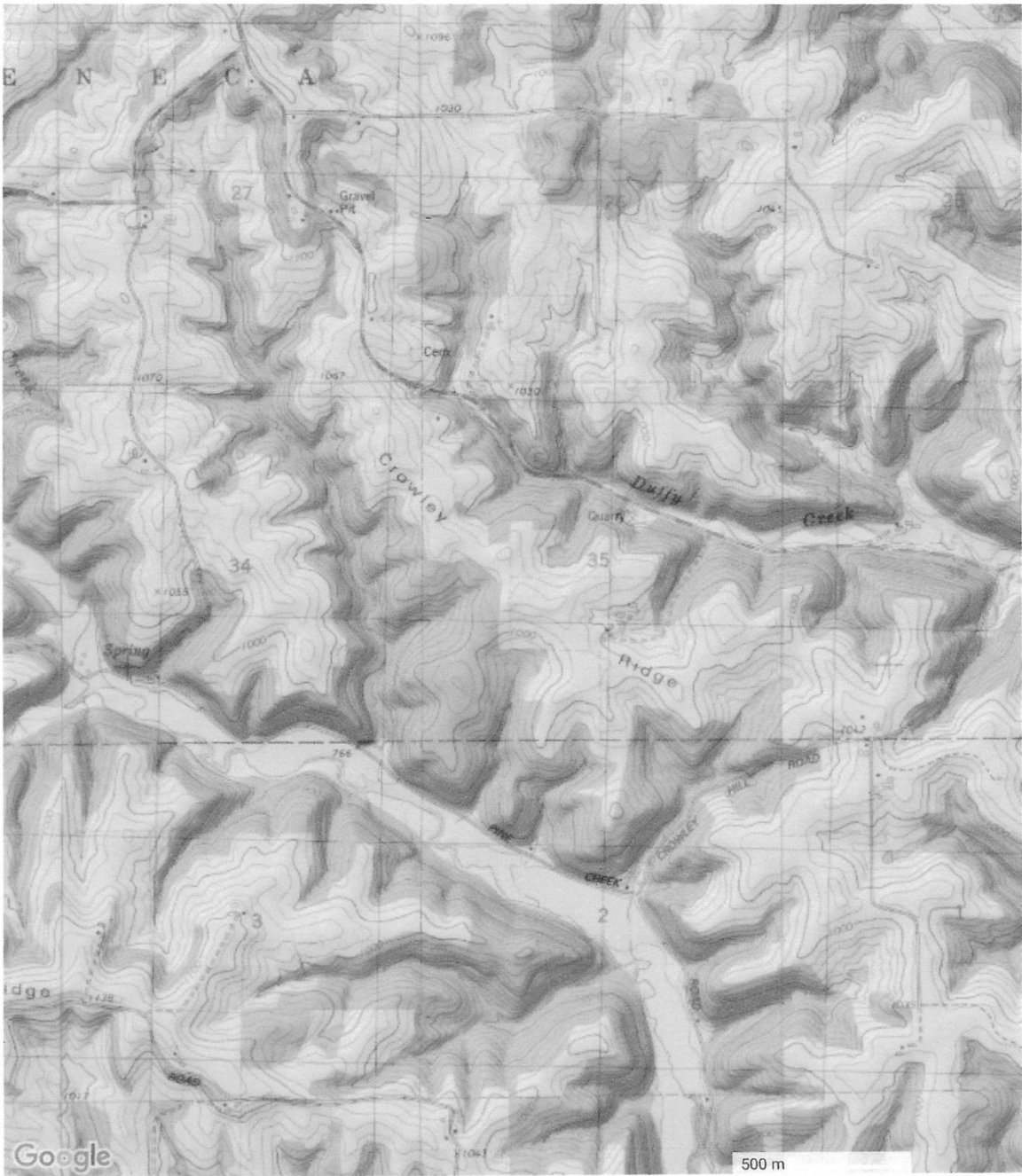
Hannah Johannah Anna Crowley Married James Clark on Apr 27, 1903. Living in Eastman Township

Kathryn Kate Crowley Married John Michels on Sep 12, 1910. Living in Eastman Town, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Margaret/Maggie Crowley Married Joseph or Theophilus LaMere (born Feb 20, 1858) in 1916. His first wife was Jennie Atchinson

Merged Johanna/Hana 1878 and Hannah 1880
Merged Margaret 1875 and Maggie 1878.

Crowley Ridge Topo Map in Crawford County Wisconsin



Crowley Ridge, Wisconsin, United States

What's around Crowley Ridge? Wikipedia near Crowley Ridge Where to stay near Crowley Ridge

The **Timezone** in **Crowley Ridge** is
America/Rankin_Inlet

Sunrise at 06:31 and **Sunset** at 17:58. It's light

Latitude. 43.21139°, **Longitude.** -90.93722°

Weather near **Crowley Ridge**; Report from
Boscobel, Boscobel Airport, WI 26.1km away

Weather :

Temperature: -6°C / 21.2°F

Wind: 5.8km/h East/Northeast

Cloud: Sky Clear

Where Is Crowley Ridge?

Crowley Bros.

— Dealers In —

General Mdse. Groceries,
Dry Goods, Drugs, Paints,
Oils, Brushes, Flour, Hdwe.,
Flour, Boots, Shoes, Over-
shoes. Anything in the
Merchandise Line.

We Buy Wood Ties Bolts

And Anything You Have To sell at
Highest Market Prices.

Salt By The Barrel Or Sack.

Steuben, - Wisconsin.

WSGS



WISCONSIN STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 65 No. 1
January 2019

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A FAMOUS SPRING.

by Cullen “Doc” Aubery,

KNEELAND CEMETERY

by Tom Stuckey & John Gorski

**Virginia V. Irvin Volunteer Hall
of Fame Nominations**

**Researching Outside the Box, or
should I say, Inside the Book**

KNEELAND CEMETERY

Tom Stuckey

John Gorski

Mary (nee Keefe) Crowley gathered her children, packed some meager belongings and food and left Lismore, County Waterford in the fall of 1852. Having lost her husband Patrick Crowley Sr., Mary hoped she was leaving behind a life of poverty and hunger. Like so many other Irish families at the time, she prayed for a better life for her family. A new life, food, work and land in America held out that hope.

Mary and her children arrived in New York on October 28, 1852 on the sailing ship Constitution. After a short stay, working to earn travel money in the apple orchards of upper state New York, Mary and her children, Edward, John Francis, and Alice headed west by train and ox cart to Crawford County Wisconsin. Another one of Mary's sons, Patrick had traveled ahead of the family to the Eastman/Seneca area of Crawford County in 1849. Mary's daughter Johanna would join the family later. The Crowley family acquired Homestead Act land in 1857 and settled in and around what is now known as Crowley Ridge in Crawford County.

A proud mother and grandmother, Mary passed away on Crowley Ridge, December 23, 1862. She was buried on a hill on a neighbor's property. Her burial location had a clear view of the Crowley Ridge to the south. The Crowley family erected an obelisk style monument that still stands today.

The stone and Mary's burial location were unknown to her Crowley ancestors until 2 of her GGG Grandsons began a search for Mary's burial location. The research path led to what was known as Kneeland Cemetery.

The 3.0-acre property for Kneeland Cemetery located in Section 27, Township 9, Range 5 West was donated by Thomas Kneeland to Bishop Henni of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Milwaukee in 1870 and recorded March 5, 1870 in Vol. 23, Page 1229 of the records of Crawford County.

The donated property was described as:

"Conveys the following: Commencing at the SE corner of Sec. 27-9-5, running at 31 perches to a post, thence W. 20 perches 17 1/4 links to a post, thence S. to the Lynxville & Georgetown road, thence along said road to the S. line of the above named section, thence along said line to the place of beginning, containing 3 acres."

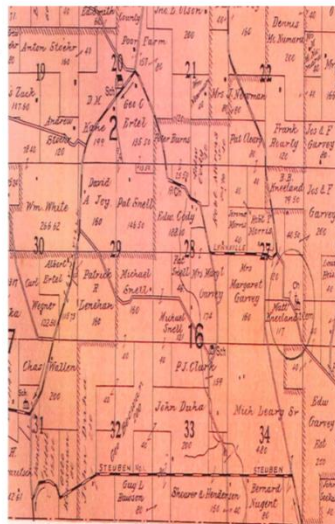
At the time of the donation, there were a number of burials that had already taken place on the Kneeland property. Catherine Kneeland, Mary E. Kneeland, Catherine Donahue, Mary (Keefe) Crowley, 1 of Mary's grandchildren Elizabeth Crowley were among those buried there in 1862. Subsequent burials through 1866 included the family names of Crowley, Brady, Flanagan, Lennahan, Mathews, Mullaney, Peasley and Smith.

According to the "Scanlan Papers" at UW Platteville, the 3-acre cemetery was adjacent to the log home of Robert Garvey where the 1st catholic services in the area were held in 1855 and continued until 1866. Rev. Lucien Gaultier, a French priest from Prairie du Chien said the 1st mass. Having outgrown the Garvey log home, in 1866, the area Catholic population erected a "little frame church" near the cemetery and reportedly named it St. Peter. In 1874, the current St. Patrick Church replaced the "little frame church". Occasionally, services continued at the "little frame church" until as stated in an April 11, 1901 Kickapoo Chief newspaper article, the "little frame church" was "sold at auction".

In 1872, the Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee deeded the cemetery property to the Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse and this transaction was so recorded in Vol. 27, page 124 of the Crawford County records.

On May 10, 1872, Father Verwst was appointed as the 1st resident priest by Bishop Heiss.

Kneeland Cemetery was "abandoned" in the fall of 1874 when the current St. Patrick Parish Church and Cemetery opened in Seneca. Land for the church was purchased by Bishop Heiss from the Huard family. Land for the



cemetery at St. Patrick was donated by Edward and Thomas Garvey. To show his appreciation, Father Ver-wst set aside a large area in the middle of the St. Patrick Cemetery as a burial place for the Garvey family. A pine tree was planted at each corner of this plot. Historical documents state that some of the graves at Kneeland Cemetery were "moved" to the new St. Patrick Cemetery. Years of research have not located any records of Kneeland burials or of the graves that were reportedly moved from Kneeland to St. Patrick Cemetery.

Currently, the only evidence of the Kneeland Cemetery burials are the remaining headstones, which detail 27 names of those buried there. The earliest burial is 1862 as seen on headstones and the latest burial is John Flanagan in 1886.



The headstones tell a story of those buried at Kneeland Cemetery of primarily being pioneer and early Irish immigrants.

Other research has determined there are other unmarked graves remaining at Kneeland without headstones.

After Kneeland Cemetery was abandoned, the cemetery became overgrown. Since the cemetery was abandoned in 1874, the cemetery was cleared of trees, brush and bushes in the 1930's and again later when it was also seeded so mowing could be done. Concerted efforts to restore the cemetery were begun in the fall of 1971. There are "word of mouth" and personal account stories that the .57-fenced area of the 3.0-acre cemetery was, in the distant past, a favorite rabbit hunting area as well as an area at times used to pasture animals.

Today, Kneeland Cemetery is cleared and regularly

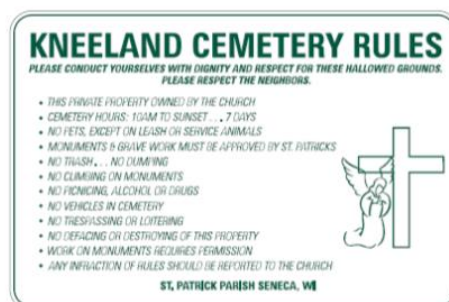
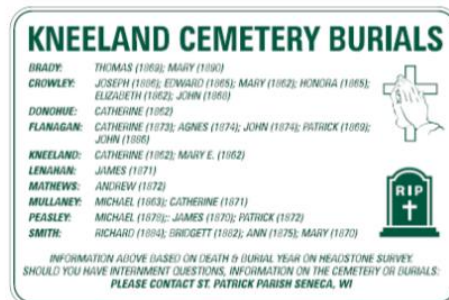
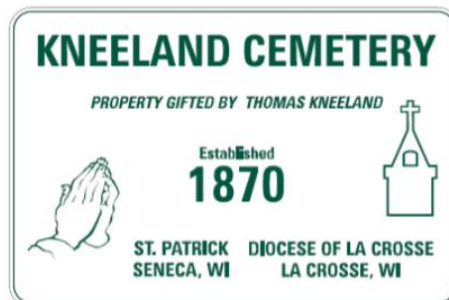
mowed by St. Patrick Parish. With the help of the diocese and civil records, newspapers and history books, the St. Patrick Parish, sexton and the pastor, research on the cemetery continues and a plan for its future is being discussed. Signage is being added and the cemetery continues to be acknowledged in various publications. Photos of many of the tombstones can be found online courtesy of the fine volunteer work of "Find-A-Grave". A 1999 survey of the headstones courtesy of an USGenWeb volunteer can also be found online.

Research continues and a written detailed of history of Kneeland Cemetery is being compiled.

Efforts to learn of unmarked burials, transcribing headstones, recovering and preserving headstones, date of fencing, the location of the original cemetery access road and the exact location of the "little frame Church" are some of the efforts included in the research project.

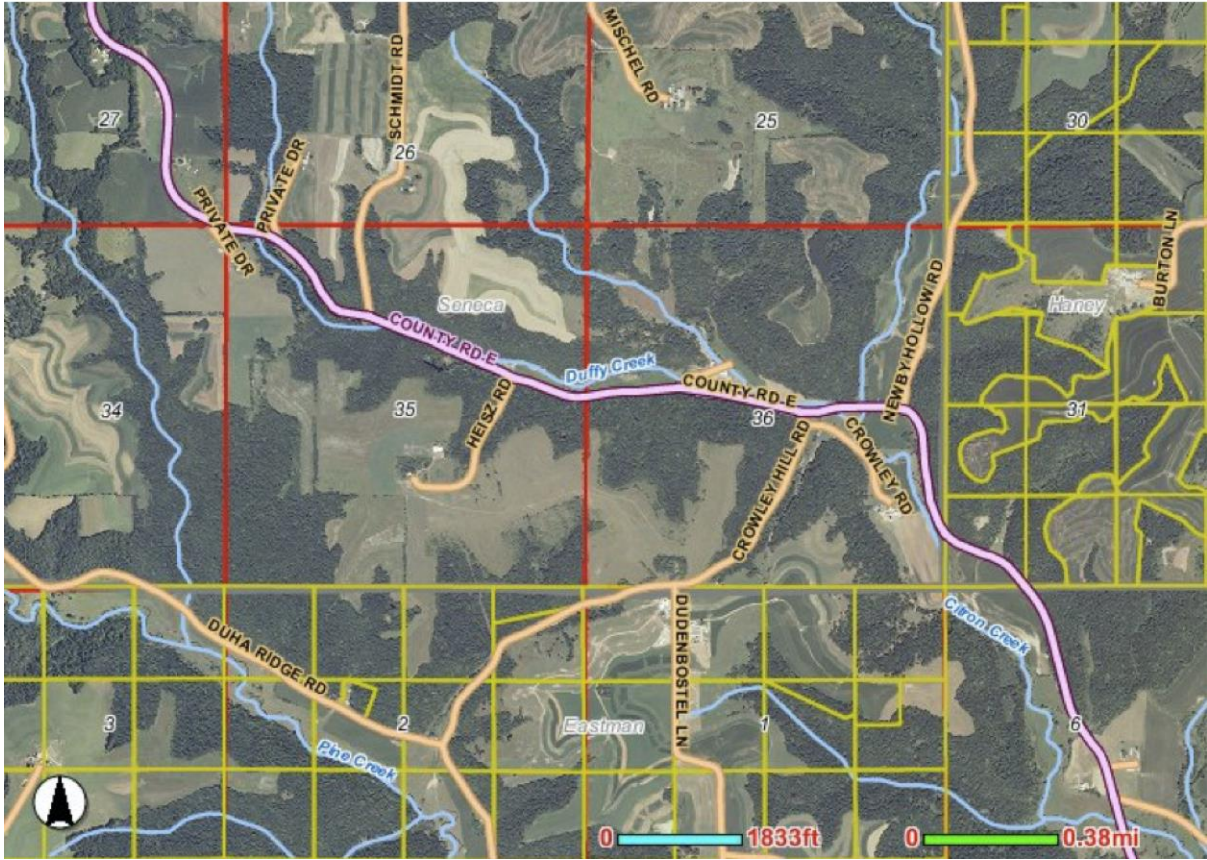
An abandoned and forgotten Wisconsin cemetery is no longer abandoned and certainly not forgotten.

Anyone with information on Kneeland cemetery is request to contact Crowley family descendants:





OV Map Zoom Full Zoom Last Zoom In Zoom Out Pan Navigation Identify Parcel Info Print



Crowley Ridge

Off to the northeast of the Eastman township between the valleys of Pine Creek and Upper Citron is a narrow ridge that was once completely settled by Crowleys. Thus the ridge got its name. Most of the Crowleys are gone from the ridge now and the land lies in the hands of strangers to the Crowleys. James Jr. is the only Crowley still farming there to my knowledge. The roads leading to the ridge were very steep and dangerous. The ridge produced several teachers, farmers, etc. Bryne Crowley who once lived on the ridge was a very good painter and painted houses and barns all around the vicinity. Most of the children from this ridge attended the Pine Creek School. Delrosa Crowley Bruns recalls the graduating exercises we had one year when I taught there. There were several graduates. We had a very impressive program and of course best of all there was always a picnic connected with the last day of school. People from all around attended and a ball game was usually the highlight.

The Crowleys were Irish thus forming an Irish corner in our township of Eastman.

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History of Upper Citron School

Compiled in 1921

By Bessie Burton, Teacher in the School

At the time of the first settlement the valley in which the school house was built was mostly covered with timber, but along the creek it was covered with wild hay.

The first school house was built on a bench of land back of where Robert Campbell's house now stands. It was built in 1853 by John Bray, and he was the first teacher. The school house was built of logs. The inside of the logs was hewed and the outside was peeled. It had a shingled roof. The furnishings of the school house were rude. There were benches along the walls for the pupils to sit on and two large desks in the center to be used for writing. The benches were made of boards with holes bored in them and supported by wooden legs.

When the district was formed, it was named the "Citron Valley School".

Not many years later the old school house burned and a new one was built where it now stands in about 1875. The ground on which the school house stands was at first a thicket of brush, sumach, etc.

One of the first settlers was William Mullaney who took up land on June 2, 1850 on what is now the Robert Campbell farm. Patrick Crowley came next in 1851. He came from Ireland to New York and from there by train to Oconomowoc. From there he walked out to where he settled by a large spring in the district. When he had decided on a location of a home, he went back and brought his family and their scant furnishings with an ox team.





McFeters



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