

## The Whereabouts of Mary (*Morris*) Hathaway Crane after 1815

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### Introduction

Mary “Polly” (Morris) Hathaway Crane was married to Samuel Hathaway in 1812 in Warren County, Ohio<sup>1</sup> and left “his bed and board” in March 1815.<sup>2</sup> She had entered the marriage with one illegitimate son, Joseph Morris, who retained his mother’s maiden name throughout his life. She had an additional son, Isaac Hathaway, and a daughter, Rebecca Hathaway, with husband Samuel prior to their separation in 1815.<sup>3</sup> With the exception of marriage records and the short newspaper notice about her separation, very little information has been discovered to date to document Mary’s life and movements over time. As a result, United States federal census returns could provide some of the most elucidating information about Mary’s post-separation life.

U.S. federal census returns from 1820, 1830 and 1840 may help answer the question: *What was Mary (Morris) Hathaway Crane’s whereabouts after leaving husband Samuel Hathaway in March 1815?*

### Research and Techniques

Census returns were accessed via *Ancestry.com*, beginning with the 1820 U.S. federal census. Since the 1820-1840 U.S. federal censuses listed the name of the head of each family, not the name of each person in the family, it seemed unlikely that Mary’s name would appear on any returns, necessitating an educated assumption about her resident household in each decade’s returns.

Mary’s last known whereabouts in March 1815 was Warren County, Ohio, so research began with the county’s 1820 U.S. federal census returns. As expected, no combination of “Mary” and “Polly” and “Hathaway” and “Morris” could be located on the Warren County returns. And since “Samuel Hathaway” could not be located on Warren County returns either, the next logical person to locate was Mary’s father, Isaac Morris. He is likely the “I. Morris” that appears on the 1820 U.S. federal census in Turtle Creek township in Warren County, Ohio.<sup>4</sup> Six people are listed in the family, with ages ranging from “under ten” to “forty-five and upwards”, which could include Mary’s father, Isaac; mother, Rebecca; and three children, Joseph, Isaac and Rebecca.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren County, Ohio, Marriage Records, Samuel Hathaway-Mary Morris, 4 February 1812; image, “Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993,” *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61378/images/TH-266-11836-10469-13> : accessed 9 January 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Notice of Mary leaving Samuel Hathaway, *The Western Star*, 3 Mar 1815, HTML edition, archived (<https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll84/id/360> : accessed 9 January 2022), column 4; citing print edition, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Tyler Finlayson, Samuel Hathaway-Mary Morris Family Group Sheet, Privately held by Finlayson, [Address for Private Use], 2022. This sheet is thoroughly documented with quality sources.

<sup>4</sup> “1820 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 January 2022), entry for Isaac Morris, Turtle Creek, Warren, Ohio.

Mary remarried in Cass County, Michigan on March 25, 1830<sup>5</sup> prior to the enumeration of the 1830 U.S. federal census on June 1, 1830. This meant that she would likely be located in the household of her assumed second husband, Ichabod Crane, in or around Cass County. An “Iabord Crane” appears in Elkhart County, Indiana on the 1830 U.S. federal census,<sup>6</sup> the county directly to the south of Cass County, Michigan. Families enumerated just before Ichabod include Mary’s former father-in-law, “Isaac Hathaway”; her son, “Joseph Morris”; and her son-in-law, “William Nichalassan”;<sup>7</sup> which helps to confirm that “Iabord” is in fact Mary’s second husband Ichabod Crane.

Ichabod can be found once again on the 1840 U.S. federal census in the county directly to the west of Elkhart County – St. Joseph County, Indiana. He appears this time as “Eckerbert Crain” and is enumerated just before Mary’s son-in-law “William Nickolson” and just after her first cousin, “Jesse Hathaway”;<sup>8</sup> again confirming that “Eckerbert” is Mary’s husband Ichabod.

## Discussion

U.S. federal census returns from 1820-1840 appear to shed some light on Mary’s post-separation whereabouts, beginning with the 1820 U.S. federal census for Warren County, Ohio. As noted above, six people appear in the household of “I. Morris” on the 1820 census, a male forty-five or older, a female forty-five or older, a female twenty-six to forty-four, a male ten to fifteen, a male under ten and a female under ten.<sup>9</sup> These ages and genders align with her father, Isaac (born 1741); her mother, Rebecca (born 1747);<sup>10</sup> herself; her son, Joseph (born 1805); her son, Isaac (born 1813); and her daughter, Rebecca (born about 1813).<sup>11</sup> Given her separation from husband Samuel only five years earlier, it makes sense that Mary and her three children could be living with her parents in Turtle Creek township in Warren County, Ohio. Since this researcher has been unable to locate an exact birth date for Mary, the 1820 census suggests that she was born between 1776 and 1794, which makes sense given her parents’ and childrens’ ages. Also noteworthy is that daughter Rebecca’s future father-in-law, Thomas Nicholson, is enumerated just after Isaac Morris on the 1820 census as “Thos. Nicholson”.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Cass County, Michigan, Marriage Records, Ichabod Crane-Mary Hathaway, 25 March 1830; image, “Michigan, County Marriages, 1820-1940,” *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-4K9X-C3> : accessed 9 January 2022).

<sup>6</sup> “1830 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 January 2022), entry for Ichabod Crane, Elkhart, Indiana.

<sup>7</sup> “1830 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry.com*, database entry for Ichabod Crane, Elkhart, I.N.

<sup>8</sup> “1840 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 January 2022), entry for Ichabod Crane, St. Joseph, Indiana.

<sup>9</sup> “1820 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry.com*, database entry for Isaac Morris, Turtle Creek, Warren, O.H.

<sup>10</sup> Tyler Finlayson, Isaac Morris-Rebecca Hathaway Family Group Sheet, Privately held by Finlayson, [Address for Private Use], 2022. This sheet is thoroughly documented with quality sources.

<sup>11</sup> Finlayson, “Samuel Hathaway-Mary Morris Family Group Sheet,” thoroughly documented with quality sources.

<sup>12</sup> “1820 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 January 2022), entry for Thomas Nicholson, Turtle Creek, Warren, Indiana.

Taken together, these facts seem to suggest that Mary remained in Warren County following her 1815 separation, living with her parents and near her future in-laws.

By the enumeration of the 1830 U.S. federal census, Mary had married Ichabod Crane, a man who was likely her second husband, in Cass County, Michigan. Within a few months of her marriage, Ichabod Crane appears on the U.S. federal census in nearby Elkhart County, Indiana as “Iabod Crane”.<sup>13</sup> His household consists of a thirty to thirty-nine year old male, a forty to forty-nine year old female and a fifteen to nineteen year old male.<sup>14</sup> Given that Mary’s son, Joseph Morris, and son-in-law, William Nicholson, are enumerated nearby,<sup>15</sup> it seems likely that Mary is the forty-something year old female in the household and that her son, Isaac (who would have been approximately seventeen years old at the time),<sup>16</sup> is the teenage male. The 1830 census helps to narrow the range of Mary’s birth year, from 1776 - 1794 on the 1820 census, to 1781 - 1790. This census also suggests that Mary’s extended family may have moved as a unit from Warren County, Ohio to Elkhart County, Indiana, more than 200 miles away. Given these facts, it seems that Mary moved northwest sometime between 1820 and 1830, settling in Indiana with or near her children, their spouses and her former in-laws.

The 1840 U.S. federal census suggests another westward move, though a much shorter distance to adjacent St. Joseph County, Indiana. Again, Mary likely appears in the household of her second husband, Ichabod Crane, who appears on the 1840 census as “Eckerbert”.<sup>17</sup> Following son Isaac’s marriage to Eliza Decker on April 9, 1835 in Cass County, Michigan,<sup>18</sup> there are no longer any children who appear in Ichabod’s household. Sons Isaac and Joseph are not enumerated near Ichabod on the 1840 census, but son-in-law William Nicholson is still in close proximity.<sup>19</sup> A new relative is enumerated near Ichabod on the 1840 census – Jesse Hathaway.<sup>20</sup> He is Mary’s first cousin and the son of her mother’s brother, Abraham. Jesse is also the first cousin of her estranged former husband Samuel.<sup>21</sup> This seems to provide further proof that the now fifty to fifty-nine year old female living in Ichabod’s household is in fact Mary (Morris) Hathaway Crane. Taken together, it appears that Mary and her husband Ichabod continued their westward journey sometime between 1830 and 1840, settling in St. Joseph County near several family members, though not all of the family members who had made the initial journey from Warren County, Ohio in the 1820s.

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<sup>13</sup> “1830 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry.com*, database entry for Ichabod Crane, Elkhart, I.N.

<sup>14</sup> “1830 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry.com*, database entry for Ichabod Crane, Elkhart, I.N.

<sup>15</sup> “1830 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry.com*, database entry for Ichabod Crane, Elkhart, I.N.

<sup>16</sup> Finlayson, “Samuel Hathaway-Mary Morris Family Group Sheet,” thoroughly documented with quality sources.

<sup>17</sup> “1840 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry.com*, database entry for Ichabod Crane, St. Joseph, I.N.

<sup>18</sup> Cass County, Michigan, Marriage Records, Isaac Hathaway-Eliza Decker, 9 April 1835; image, “Michigan, County Marriages, 1820-1940,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-4K96-Y5>).

<sup>19</sup> “1840 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 January 2022), entry for William Nicholson, St. Joseph, Indiana.

<sup>20</sup> “1840 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 January 2022), entry for Jesse Hathaway, St. Joseph, Indiana.

<sup>21</sup> Tyler Finlayson, Benjamin Hathaway-Mary Fairchild Family Group Sheet, Privately held by Finlayson, [Address for Private Use], 2022. This sheet is thoroughly documented with quality sources.

## Conclusion

Using U.S. federal census records from 1820, 1830 and 1840, it is possible to construct a short narrative concerning Mary's whereabouts after her separation from Samuel Hathaway. Following her March 1815 separation, Mary likely remained in Warren County, Ohio, living there at least through the enumeration of the 1820 census. Though no documentation has yet been located to prove the day or year she left Warren County, it seems plausible that she moved after her parents' deaths in 1827 and 1828,<sup>22</sup> especially since she appears to be living with them on the 1820 census. Though family members could have moved to Indiana independently, the fact that they all appear near each other in Elkhart County, Indiana on the 1830 census suggests that they may have made the journey as a family unit. No documentation has yet been located to prove the date she left Elkhart County and entered St. Joseph County, but given that her son Isaac was married in 1835 in Cass County, Michigan, it is plausible that Mary and Ichabod moved sometime after Isaac's marriage and departure but before the 1840 census enumeration.

By 1844, Ichabod had remarried in southwest Michigan and had a son, Archibald, with his new wife, Colata.<sup>23</sup> Ichabod appears alone in stepson Isaac's household on the 1850 census,<sup>24</sup> which suggests that Mary and Ichabod did not divorce; instead, she died after the 1840 census but likely prior to his 1844 marriage, probably in or around 1843.

Additional research will likely need to be done in Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties to attempt to determine exactly when Mary arrived and departed as well as to provide additional context to her exact whereabouts. Tax records, voting records, and church records in the area may provide some of the best details about where and when Mary entered and exited these Northern Indiana counties.

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<sup>22</sup> Finlayson, "Isaac Morris-Rebecca Hathaway Family Group Sheet," thoroughly documented with quality sources.

<sup>23</sup> Tyler Finlayson, Ichabod Crane-Colata Bixby Family Group Sheet, Privately held by Finlayson, [Address for Private Use], 2022. This sheet is documented with quality sources.

<sup>24</sup> "1850 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 January 2022), entry for Ichabod Crane, Union, St. Joseph, Indiana.