

Hello, thanks for the reply. Someplace recently I read an old obituary for a Mary Dunphy, I think, newspaper article that someone had scanned and attending the funeral in the 1920's if I remember right, were Mrs. Thomas (Katherine or Kate) Heagney, daughter Alice and son Walter. They were adults, but not married at that time and they went to the funeral with their mother. So, I thought, somehow, this woman, who had passed away, maybe a sister to Katherine (maiden name of Croak, and daughter of John and Julia Croak of Janesville) Heagney. Kate's or Katherine's husband, Thomas Heagney was dead already, in 1907. Thanks, Debbie (looking for my Croak branch of the family tree!)

Hello,

I am a great great, great granddaughter of John and Julia Croak (both born in Ireland mid 1800's) and spent the last part of their lives in Janesville, WI. John owned a Brewery until 1934 (Croak's Brewery in Janesville, WI, then City Brewery) I am looking to find any information on the children of John and Julia, especially Katherine or Kate or Kitty as she was called when she was young. She was my great great grandmother and lived on in Janesville until her death in the 1920's I believe. Her Daughter Ellen or Nell Heagney married a man with the last name of Sullivan and Nell died in 1922 of TB and is buried in Janesville at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Ellen (Nell) was my great grandmother, we never knew who was her son's father, her son was my grandfather. We assume he was born down south by relatives and then shipped back home to Janesville at the age of three to be raised by his grandmother, Kate, and maiden aunts Alice and Gertrude Heagney. James, my grandfather died in 1998, so the mystery is not solved and no one ever really asked him, only a handful of relatives knew he was raised by his grandmother, who was widowed in 1907. My grandfather was born in 1909. Any clues? Debbie

My research is almost exclusively devoted to the Evansville area of Rock County. In Magnolia township, Rock County and Albany area of Green County there was a "Croak Settlement" and occasionally a column with "Croak Corners" news appeared in the Evansville Review. One of the cemeteries in Magnolia township, Calvary Cemetery is also called the Croak Cemetery.

The only Janesville Croak family information I have is a newspaper article that appeared in the Evansville Review on a J. E. Croake (note the addition of an "e" on this name) who ran for sheriff in Rock County in 1934. The name was spelled both ways in various newspaper accounts.

The Evansville area Dunphy's and Croak's were associated with St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Albany and St. Paul's Catholic Church in Evansville.

The Evansville area Croak families are also related to the Ryan, Maloy, Finnane, and Dunphy's.

The Croak family in this area appears to have descended from James K. Croak who left Ireland and purchased land in Green and Rock Counties in 1840. He was known as James "The King" Croak. He had two brothers, Michael and Patrick, who also settled in the Croak Settlement.

I have a copy of the Dunphy Dynasty and it says that James (The King) Croak married Margaret Dunphy on September 27, 1846 in St. Peter's Church, Milwaukee.

William Croak was the seventh child of James (The King) Croak and Margaret Peggy Dunphy. According to a small pamphlet called "Dunphy Dynasty II" Wm. was VP of Bower City Beverage, Co-founder of the Croak Brewing Co. William owned 420 acres, in the Town of Center, Rock County, that was purchased by the Dunphy Brothers in the 1930s for \$22,000. That is the only mention of a connection to Croak Brewing Co.

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Heagney. Kate's or Katherine's husband, Thomas Heagney was dead already, in 1907. Thanks, Debbie (looking for my Croak branch of the family tree!)

Mr. Patrick Croak, of the Town of Albany, aged about 65 years, died of consumption on Saturday February 9, 1889.

The funeral was held at his late home on Monday last, Rev. Father Kelley of Brodhead officiating.

Four hacks from Janesville and the hearse from this city were engaged and a large number of relatives and friends followed the remains to their last resting place in the Janesville cemetery.

February 16, 1889, p. 1, col. 6, The Tribune, Evansville, Wisconsin

BORN. Wednesday, May 28, 1890, to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Croak, a 10 pound girl.

June 3, 1890, the Tribune, p. 1, col. 6, "Jug Prairie" news, Evansville, Wisconsin

Miss Agnes Croak arrived at her home here last week from Janesville and her many friends are pleased to find her at home once more.

June 3, 1890, the Tribune, p. 1, col. 6, "Jug Prairie" news, Evansville, Wisconsin

Married: In Chicago, Monday, September 18, Miss Mary E. Quirk of Rockford and Mr. Frank Croak who resides four miles west of this city.

The groom is well and favorably known here and all join in well wishes. They will reside on his farm in Green County.

September 30, 1899, The Badger, p. 1, col. 4, Evansville, Wisconsin

Invitations are out for the marriage of Miss Maggie Dunphy and Mr. Martin Croak, Jan. 31. Both parties reside near Albany and are well known here.

January 27, 1900, The Badger, p. 1, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mrs. James K. Croak, aged 82 years, died at her home in West Magnolia, Monday night, Jan. 20, 1902, after an illness of but two days. She had been a resident of this county for 56 years and leaves six sons and two daughters to mourn their sad loss, her husband having departed this life fourteen years ago. The funeral was held in St. Patrick's church in Albany, Wednesday morning, Father Smith officiating.

January 24, 1902, Enterprise, p. 1, col. 4, Evansville, Wisconsin

Born: To Mr. and Mrs. Martin Croak, Tuesday, the 5th, a daughter.

Jan. 9, 1904, The Badger, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mrs. Mary Croak, 93 years of age residing about six miles southwest of this city on the Albany road, died this Tuesday morning.

February 6, 1906, The Tribune, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mrs. Mary Croake whose death notice appeared in this paper last week, was born in the County of Tipperary Ireland 93 years ago.

Emigrated to America and moved onto the farm in Green County on which she has continuously resided upwards of 50 years, died at her home 5 miles southwest of Evansville, Tuesday morning, February 6th. She was the widow of the late Jeffrey Croake, who preceded her to the other world some 40 years ago. Deceased is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Jno. C. Quirk, of Watertown, Wis., Mrs. T. M. Croake, Miss Hannah Croake of Green County and one son, J. W. Croake of the same place.

February 13, 1906, Tribune, Evansville, Wisconsin

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Croak, a son, Jan. 18, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Croak lives five miles northwest of Evansville.

January 18, 1912, Evansville Review, p. 4, col. 1, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Croak celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary by most royally entertaining sixty of their relatives and friends last Thursday evening at their home southwest of town. The bride looked lovely gowned in the dress she wore on her wedding day twenty-five years ago, and the graceful manner in which the groom led his bride through the dance would do credit to a much younger man. The guest left many chosen pieces of silverware and reminders of the occasion and departed in the small hours of the morning wishing Mr. and Mrs. Croak would live to celebrate their golden wedding and that they would be present to enjoy their hospitality.

October 31, 1912, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

The marriage ceremony of Mr. Frank Croak of Albany and Miss Helen Lay of Janesville was solemnized in St. Mary's Church, Janesville at 8 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The bride was accompanied by Miss Katherine Croak, a sister of the Groom, and Mr. Leo Lay acted as best man.

The bride's costume was of white embroidered mull with hat to match, while the bridesmaid was gowned in a pale blue costume.

Mr. and Mrs. Croak will be at home to their many friends after September 15, at their home west of Evansville.

September 4, 1913, Evansville Review, p. 4, Col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

The new baby at Martin Croake's was christened in Evansville Sunday afternoon. Martin Leo, is his name. Miss Kittie Croake and Joe Dunphy were his sponsors.

January 6, 1916, "Croak's Corners" news, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

Word has been received of the death of Joseph Croake, who passed away in a Madison hospital Friday morning. Mr. Croake made his home here for a number of years before going to Janesville to reside with his mother. No man was more highly respected and numbered more warm friends than did Mr. Croake. He has two brothers living here -- Martin and Thomas. Sympathy is extended to them in their great sorrow.

A great many from here went to Janesville Monday to attend Mr. Croake's funeral.

Croak's Corner, Evansville Review, p. 3, col. 1, January 20, 1916, Evansville, Wisconsin

John Croak, aged 58, who died at the Mercy hospital, Janesville, Tuesday was one of the prominent residents of the Albany community and leaves a large relationship at Albany and Janesville. The funeral services were held at the residence of his sister, Mrs. Thos. Whalen, of Janesville this morning and later at the Albany church at 10:30. He was buried in the Croak cemetery at Albany.

April 6, 1922, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

Friends of Mrs. Mary Quirk were shocked to hear of her death Saturday, at her home in Janesville. She is the only sister of Mrs. Thos. Croake and lived in this vicinity for many years and had a host of friends who are grieved at her sudden death.

April 10, 1924, Evansville Review, p. 7, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

Johanna Croak passed away Thursday, June 24th, at Mercy Hospital, Janesville, where she had been for the past eight weeks.

Miss Croak was born January 7th, 1850 in the home where she spent all her life. She was the daughter of the late James C. and Bridget Croak, who came from County Tipperary, Ireland and settled on the farm in Croak Settlement in 1847.

Several relatives came over at that time and made their home with them until they were able to locate farms in the vicinity for themselves.

Mr. Croak, a carpenter by trade, built the first modern stone house in that locality, the doors even being hand made, are more artistic and substantial than can be obtained today. The stone work was done by Barron Bros. Janesville.

Johanna was a great lover of that home where everything showed the handiwork of some loved one gone before.

In young girlhood she was ever ready to help in neighboring homes during illness and sorrow, and was a true friend and comforter in her quiet unassuming way.

She was an example of pure Christian womanhood.

Besides her parents she was preceded in death by three brothers, John, James and Richard, and one sister, Catherine, wife of the late James Dawson.

She leaves to mourn her loss several nieces and nephews, one sister, Mrs. P. Maloy, whose farm adjoins and Walter, who resided with her on the old homestead and to whom she was ever a faithful home maker.

The funeral was held Saturday morning at 9:30 at St. Patrick's church, Albany. Rev., Geo. J. Hegeman celebrated the mass and conducted the services at the grave in Calvary cemetery.

July 1, 1926, Evansville Review, p. 4, col. 3, & 4, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Croak announce the marriage of their daughter Eleanor to Richard J. McCann, Minneapolis, Minn. The marriage took place Wednesday morning at St. Paul's church with the Rev. Sidney Dwyer officiating.

Miss Kathryn Croak, sister of the bride was bridesmaid and Carl Mason, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, best man.

A wedding breakfast at Old Fashioned Inn, Madison, followed the ceremony after which Mr. and Mrs. McCann left on a short wedding trip.

October 28, 1926, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 5, Evansville, Wisconsin

## HEART ATTACK FATAL TO THOMAS M. CROAK

Prominent Local Farmer Dies  
Suddenly Wednesday in Home  
Southwest of City

Thomas M. Croak, 77, a lifelong resident of this community and prominent local farmer, died at 11 a. m. Wednesday following a heart attack in his home five miles southwest of the city. He had been afflicted with heart trouble for some time, but died suddenly. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Mr. Croak was born Oct. 7, 1856 on a farm west of Evansville and was married Oct. 24, 1887 to Miss Ellen Croak at a ceremony performed in St. Rose's Catholic church, Brodhead, of which he was a member.

Besides his wife, Mr. Croak is survived by five sons, Joe, Frank, James, John, and Thomas Croak all of Evansville; one daughter, Miss Cath-  
*(Continued on last page)*

## HEART ATTACK FATAL TO THOMAS M. CROAK

*(Continued from page 1)*

erine Croak, at home; several grandchildren; two brothers, Martin Croak, Evansville, and Frank Croak, Janesville; and one sister, Miss Agnes Croak, Albany.

March 29, 1934, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 7, & p. 8, Evansville, Wisconsin

# ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

(Continued from page 1)

January, 1931 and served in that capacity until released June 1, 1934.

With three years' training during the Fessenden administration, Croake has become one of the best known officers in the county. Sheriff Fessenden was very careful in training Mr. Croake to be an efficient officer and before his death made the statement that he would like to see Croake fill that office.

As under-sheriff, Croake worked many days as long as 18 and 20 hours and has not had a vacation in three and one-half years. He received considerable credit for the part he took in solving the Bleasdale murder. In working on this case he motored to LaCrosse and without a warrant arrested Cooper, the man who shot Mr. Bleasdale, bringing the murderer back to Janesville during the night.

Croake has proved himself a true friend of Rock county farmers in the efficient manner he handled the milk strike while acting as sheriff. He solved the Knilans robbery case in Jefferson county in which Knilans received a horrible beating. The three men responsible are now in prison.

"I believe as Mr. Fessenden did, 'One Warning is Enough,'" said the candidate when visiting the Review editor. I have performed the unpleasant duty of taking more prisoners to Green Bay and Waupun than any officer in the state of Wisconsin and if elected I will give the county 'all there is in me.'

# ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

## J. E. Croake Will be Candidate On Republican Ticket at Primary Election

While in Evansville last week visiting friends, J. E. Croake, Janesville, announced his candidacy for sheriff on the republican ticket at the primary election to be held Sept. 5.

Mr. Coake, a member of the American Legion, Forty and Eight, and several other organizations, was appointed under-sheriff by J. S. Fessenden in

(Continued on last page)

## WEEK'S ILLNESS FATAL TO MRS. ANN MALOY, 80

(Continued from page 1)

miles west of the city, with Thomas and Richard Dunphy, Richard and James Dawson, Edward Croak, and James Finnane, all nephews as pallbearers.

Mrs. Maloy, formerly Miss Ann Croake, was born at the Croake settlement west of Evansville March 11, 1854 and grew to young womanhood in that community. She was married to Peter Maloy April 27, 1855 at a ceremony performed in St. Rose's church, Brodhead, after which they settled on a farm in the Croake settlement where Mr. Maloy died Nov. 13, 1925. Mrs. Maloy located in Evansville six years ago.

Besides a host of friends throughout the community, Mrs. Maloy is survived by three children, Miss Katherine Maloy, at home; Mrs. Leo Lay, and Charles Maloy, Evansville; and one brother Walter Croake, also of Evansville.

Those from out-of-town attending the services here Monday were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barrett, Mrs. Margaret Irish, and Mr. and Mrs. James Dawson and family, Stockbridge; and James Campbell, Hilbert.

## WEEK'S ILLNESS FATAL TO MRS. ANN MALOY, 80

### Final Rites Held Monday in St. Paul's Church With Burial In Calvary Cemetery

Mrs. Ann Maloy, 80, a lifelong resident of Evansville and vicinity, died at midnight Friday in her home at 213 West Liberty street following a week's illness of pneumonia.

Funeral services were held at 9:15 a.m. Monday in the home and at 9:30 in St. Paul's Catholic church with the Rev. F. J. Mehigan officiating. Burial was made in Calvary cemetery, five

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## MRS. THOMAS CROAK DIES WEDNESDAY AT HOME AT AGE OF 79

Mrs. Thomas Croak, 79, a lifelong resident of Croak settlement, passed away Wednesday morning, 10 a.m. at her home southwest of Evansville after a serious illness of a week. Her health had been failing for over seven months.

She was born Ellen Croak, June 10, 1858 at Croak settlement, and grew up there, marrying Thomas Croak in 1887. They were not related, although their surnames were the same. In March 1934, Mr. Croak passed away, after the couple had spent their entire married life on the same farm.

She was a member of St. Patrick's church, Albany, and is survived by six children, Joseph, Madison; Frank, east of Evansville; James, Kitty, Thomas Jr., and John, at home; and four grandchildren. Two sons died in infancy.

Funeral services will be held at 8:15 a.m. Friday from the house to St. Patrick's church in Albany at 9 a.m., where the Rev. Francis Olszewski will officiate. There will be a rosary service at the home tonight.

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Route 2      Evansville, Wis.



**ASK FOR A  
DEMONSTRATION  
ON YOUR  
FARM.**

March 30, 1939, Evansville Review, p. 6, col. 6, Evansville,

Wisconsin

# Martin Croak Dies In Madison Today

—V—  
**Former Evansville Resident  
Succumbs After Month of  
Failing Health**  
—V—

Martin Croak, 72, Madison, former Evansville resident, died early this morning in St Mary's hospital, Madison where he was admitted Tuesday for treatment. He had been in failing health for several weeks.

He was the son of the late Patrick and Katherine Croak and was born in the Croak settlement west of the city in 1871. He was married to Miss Margaret Dunphy of that locality 44 years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Croak owned and operated a farm on the county line west of here until a few years ago when they retired and moved to Madison. He was a member of the Catholic church, Holy Name society and the Catholic Knights.

Mr. Croak is survived by his wife, six daughters, Mrs. Eleanor McCann, Madison; Mrs. Guy Young, Alturas, Calif.; Mrs. John Dunphy, Janesville, Mrs. Harold Lambole, Monroe; Mrs. Russell Traeger, West Allis, and Miss Agnes Croak, at home; three sons, Ed-

### Catholic Knights.

Mr. Croak is survived by his wife, six daughters, Mrs. Eleanor McCann, Madison; Mrs. Guy Young, Alturas, Calif.; Mrs. John Dunphy, Janesville, Mrs. Harold Lambole, Monroe; Mrs. Russell Traeger, West Allis, and Miss Agnes Croak, at home; three sons, Edward, Janesville; Martin, Jr., Springfield, Ill., and Philip, in the army stationed at Cleveland, Ohio; 13 grandchildren; a brother, Frank Croak, Janesville and a sister, Miss Agnes Croak Janesville. The body is at the Allen funeral home pending funeral arrangements.

April 29, 1943, p. 4, col. 1, Evansville

## KATHRYN DUNPHY

Kathryn Croak Dunphy, age 86, died Jan. 31, 1994 at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, following an extended illness.

Kathryn was born Jan. 1, 1908 in Evansville, the daughter of Martin and Margaret Dunphy Croak. She graduated from Janesville High School in 1926 and St. Mary's School of Nursing, Madison, in 1929. She and John Charles Dunphy of Janesville were married at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Evansville on Sept. 26, 1936.

They made their home in Janesville until her husband's death on March 8, 1966. She resided in Madison the past 28 years.

She is survived by two daughters, Margaret Brown of Madison, and Annette (William) Giles of Tulsa, OK. and two brothers, Martin and Phillip Croak of Madison; and two sisters, Genevieve Lamboley of New Haven CT, and Mary Young of Alturas, CA.

Funeral services were held at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church with Rev. Kenneth Fiedler and a nephew Rev. David Croak, Aurora, CO, officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Albany, WI. The Joyce Funeral Home, Madison, was in charge.