

Edmund Coffey Family

By Fred Coffey

I manage a large “Coffey DNA Project”, which examines the y-DNA matches and genealogy of several genetically distinct groups of Coffey men, with origins in Ireland. Our web page is at www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA.

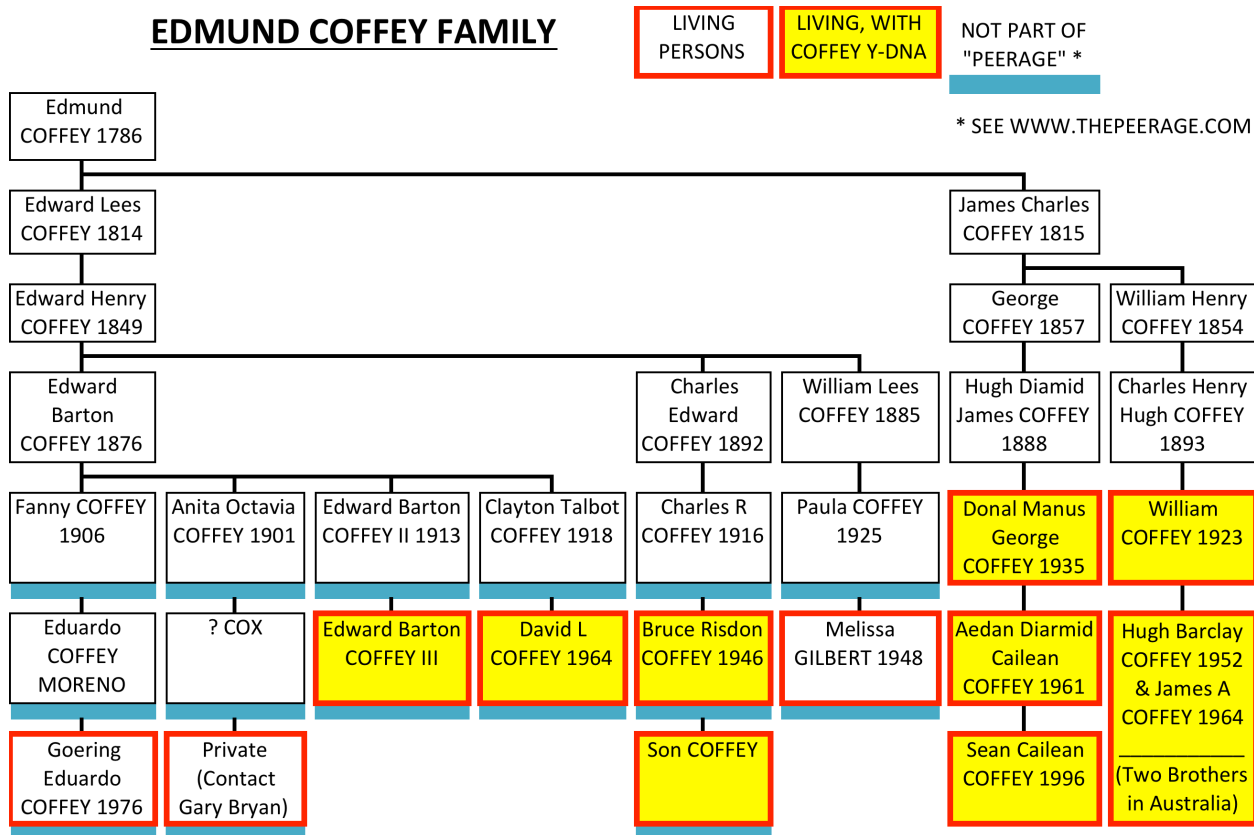
For some time, I have been working to find and test one or more persons from a particular family. This family has a published genealogy that appears to go back more than 50 generations. DNA tests on such a family could be very informative, and we now have a y-DNA test on one member of this family, which supports the possibility of such an ancient connection. In the above web page, you will find this test reflected under “Major Groups”, see discussion at [Munster Group](#).

This paper is intended to inform current and possible future participants where things now stand:

Here is that ancient line:

<http://www.libraryireland.com/Pedigrees1/CoffeyIthe.php>

This long pedigree leads down to one “Edmund Coffey”, who is Person #125, and who was born in 1786 and died in 1841. Other sources extend the family on down from Edmund, as follows:



Most of the details for this chart have been found at www.thepeerage.com. Within that, the direct link to Edmund is: <http://www.thepeerage.com/p36696.htm#i366956> (The reader should have little trouble starting with Edmund, and following the branches up and down. By the way, I think the two levels ABOVE Edmund also seem reasonably well documented.)

We have determined that all the people in boxes edged with red are still living. And all of those shaded yellow would have the requisite y-chromosome, required for the y-DNA test.

I want to start discussion on the right side of this chart, the last two columns. That's because our big discovery was Mr. Aedan Diarmid Cailean Coffey, who lives in Kilkenny, Ireland. And Aedan has now done the y-DNA test! Further, he verifies that the descent lines in those two columns are correct, and confirms he is personally acquainted with all the living people in the yellow boxes on the right.

The left six columns show the descent from Edward Lees Coffey and his son Edward Henry Coffey. I would still like to get a y-DNA test from this side, since it is distant from Aedan, and a test would serve as a good verification of the whole family.

On this left side, "ThePeerage" source does not take us all the way down. The boxes with a blue bar on the bottom have been researched by me, with assistance from Goering Coffey, Gary Bryan, and Melissa Gilbert (see their names above). Between us we have found enough birth records, census records, travel records, etc., to be comfortable of the validity. Details can be made available to any family members with sufficient interest.

BACKGROUND:

I would like to set the stage with this obituary, found by Gary Bryan, for **Edward Lees Coffey**:

From New York Times, 1899:

"Major Edward Lees Coffey died at his residence, 71 West Eighty-seventh Street, yesterday afternoon in his eighty-sixth year. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, studied at Trinity College, and then went to Woolwich. He entered the army of the East India Company, and was aide de camp to Sir Charles Napier at the battle of Meanie, which completed the subjugation of Scinde. For twelve years following he was Postmaster General of Scinde. During our civil war he resigned his commission and went in a blockade runner to Richmond with letters in connection with a plan to manage a Confederate school of artillery, which failed for lack of money.

"At Richmond he married Lucy Edwelyn Haxall, and after passing North through the lines he left the United States with his wife. After traveling in Europe he returned to New York to go into business, and resided in this city until his death. He was the head of his sept, as the Irish clans are called, and his family in County Cork dates from the ninth century. Through a marriage with the daughter of Edward III the Coffeys acquired the right to place ermine as a charge in their coat of arms.

"Major Coffey is survived by two sons, Prof. Edward Coffey of San Diego, Cal., and Barton Haxall Coffey of this city, and one daughter, Edwelyn, wife of Charles de Kay. His brother, David Coffey, is Master in Chancery at Dublin, and he was related to the Earl of Clare and Lord Dunboyne.

Of interest is that Edward Lees was obviously VERY interested in, and VERY proud of, his ancestral history. I suspect the obituary was written either by his wife, or by his son Barton Haxall Coffey. Wife Lucy and son Barton are in the Manhattan census in 1900, taken right after Edward's death. (Edward also had a daughter, Susan, not mentioned in this obituary? See 1870 and 1900 census.)

Also "The Peerage" seems to have solidly researched information, indicating that others have taken a very keen interest in this family, with decent sources. It is obvious that Edward Lees Coffey would have been very proud to see all that has been published.

THE Y-DNA MATCHES OF AEDAN COFFEY:

As mentioned, we do have a y-DNA test on Aedan Coffey, and the result is covered on our web page above. See the [Munster Group](#) page for details.

OTHER POTENTIAL TEST SUBJECTS:

Look at the “yellow box” people in the above tree. There are several that might be candidates for additional testing:

EDWARD BARTON COFFEY III: There is a dentist in California, Edward Barton Coffey III, who would be a perfect test subject. However to date I have not been able to get him interested.

DAVID L COFFEY 1964: Goering says David now lives in Guatemala, and his full name is David Louis Coffey Aparicio. Goering has made contact, and will continue discussions.

BRUCE RISDON COFFEY 1946: A couple of years ago I found a valid address and phone for Bruce (I’m keeping the details private for now). Here are my conversation notes from my call:

“Bruce confirmed I had found the right family, but explained he was not interested in genealogy, and not interested in DNA testing. I left him my phone number, and promised not to bother him again. In passing, he told me two more things: (1) he has a son, and (2) his father had previously researched a genealogy back to the 1600's (and therefore he didn't need any more research).”

It’s interesting that Bruce obviously had a father who was VERY interested in genealogy, and who was quite aware of the family history.

THE AUSTRALIANS:

Aedan assures me he knows these men very well, and that William and his son Hugh visited his family in Ireland in 2013. He is prepared to put me in touch with them. However this side of the big family seems very solid, and at the moment I don’t see a reason for another test there.