



An Introduction

Your DNA

and Your Family Tree

(Coffey y-DNA)

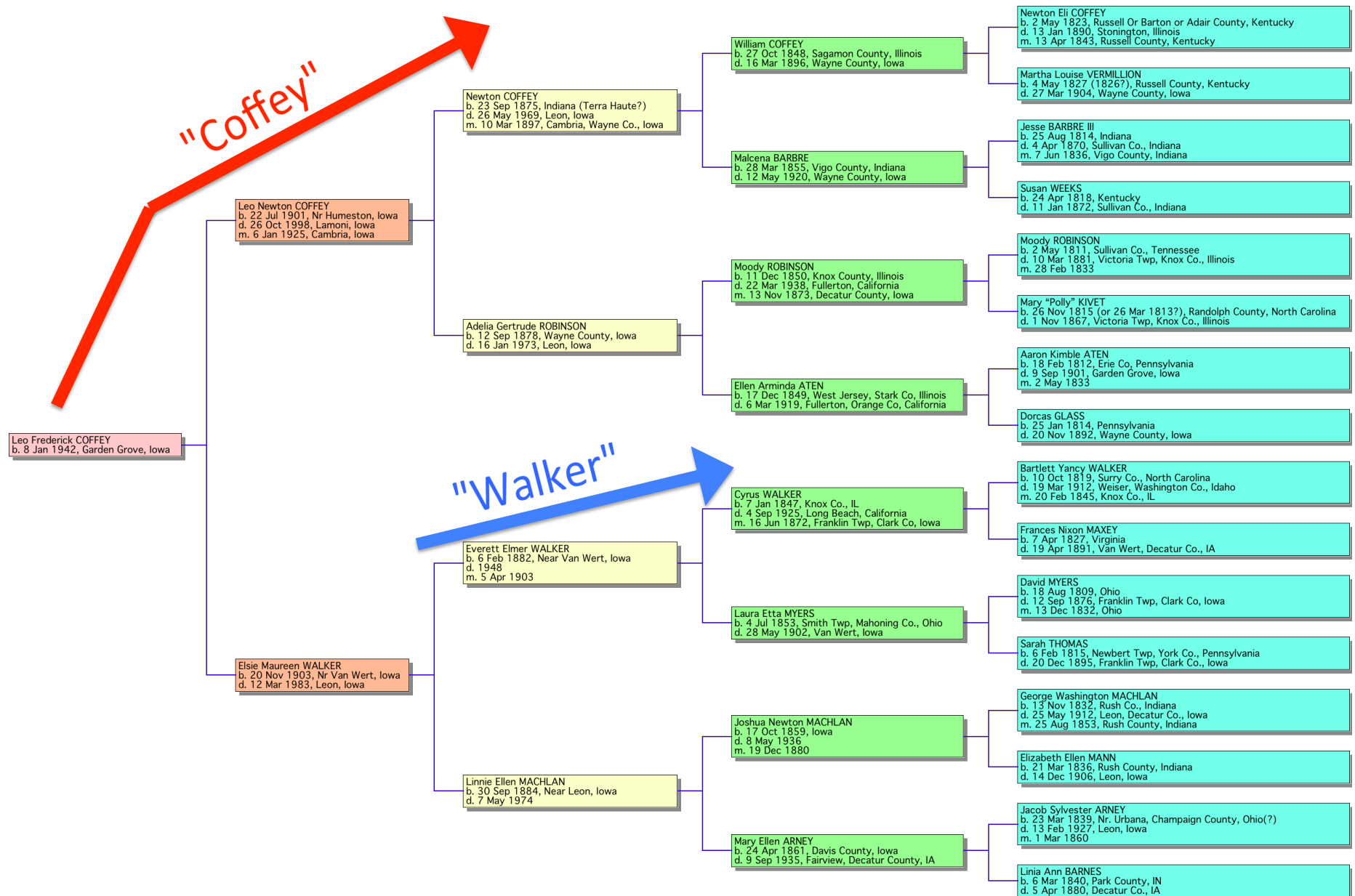
Presentation by:

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Coffey Surname, y-DNA Project

We're now ready to move on and look at the type of results you can get from a y-DNA test, using my own Coffey family as an example:

"y-DNA" and the Family Tree



"y-DNA" and the Family Tree

Here's my own family tree, back 5 generations. What can tests on this little y-chromosome tell me about my family?

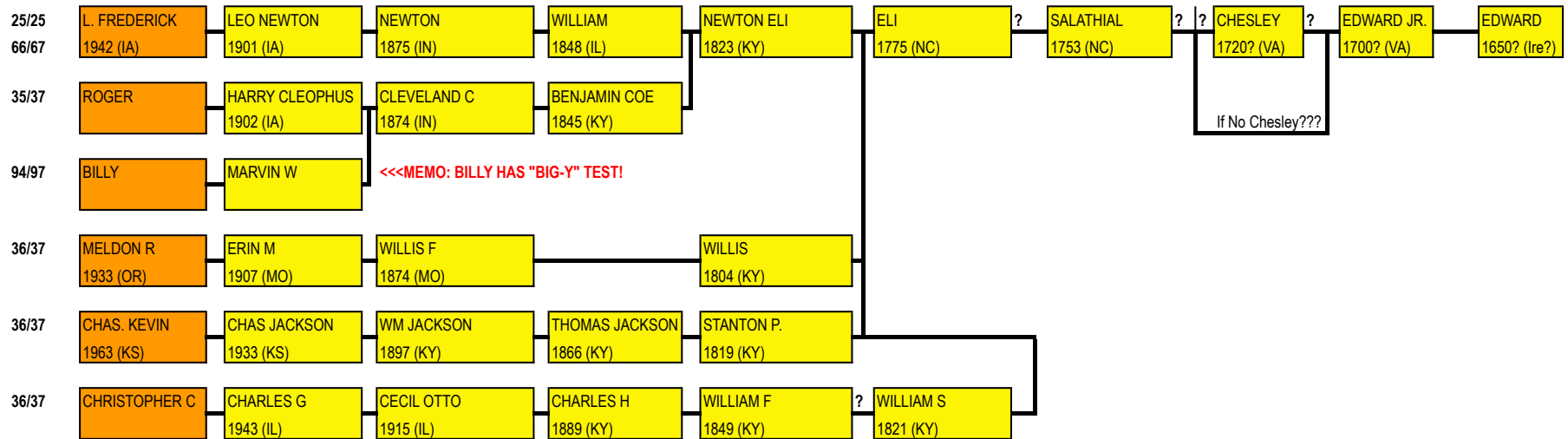
I'm the guy named in the box on the far left. If I move up and to the right, my father is next. Then his father, who is my grandfather. And then my great-grandfather. And then my GG Grandfather.

This is my surname line. Generation by generation these men have each been handing down both the Coffey surname, and the family y-chromosome. I can track that chromosome over more than 10 generations, and it has only rare changes. It's a good, solid chromosome!

But my mother was a "Walker" - what if I want to investigate that branch?

No problem. All I had to do was corner a known male cousin with the "Walker" surname, and persuade him to rub the inside of his cheek with a plastic swab. I've done that for several different branches of my family.

Fred's "Coffey" Line



Fred's "Coffey" Line

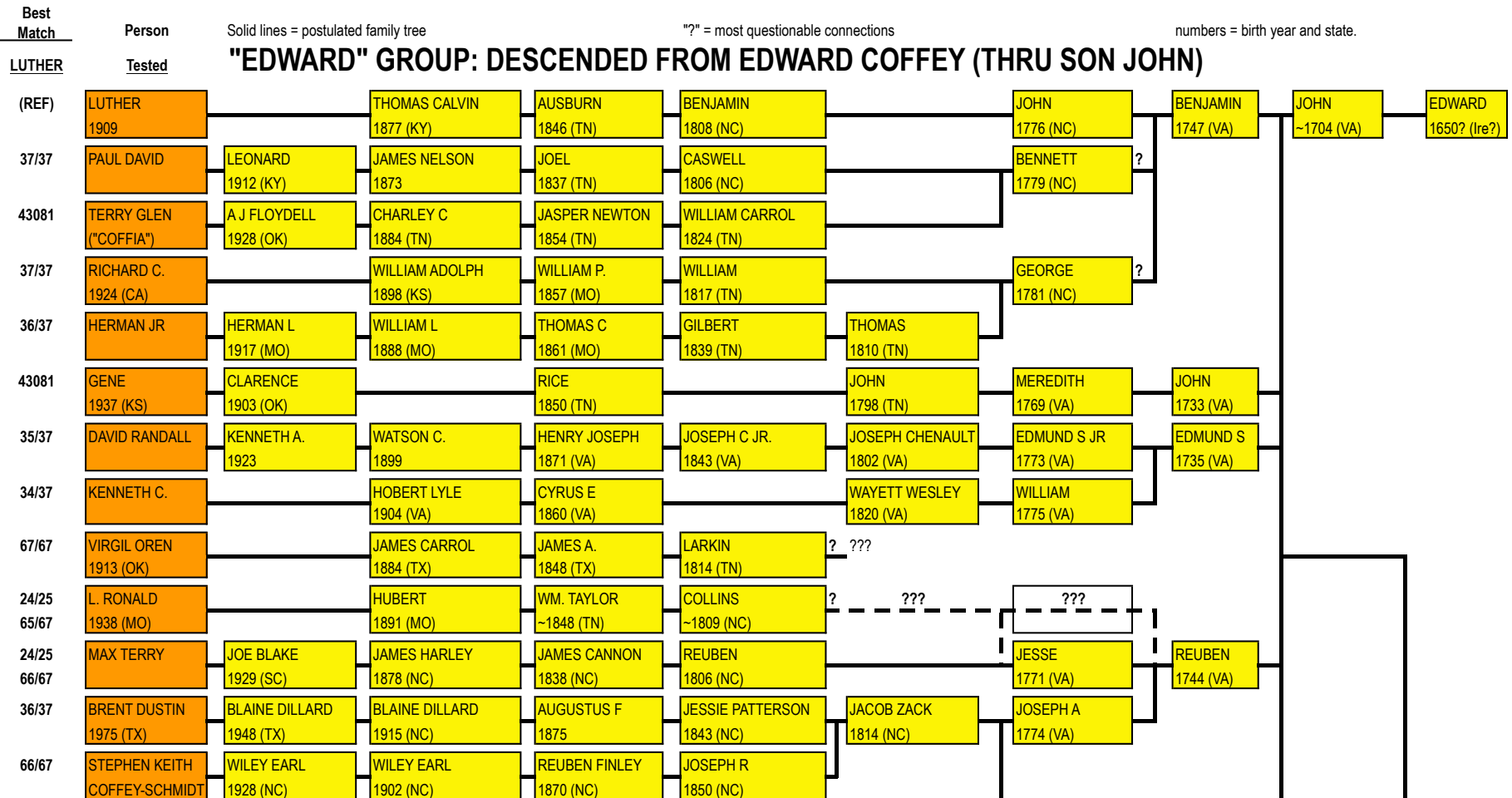
Since we're now talking only about y-DNA, let's ignore the rest of the tree on the previous page. The top line here is my surname line. Here I show 5 more generations. And it goes back to an "Edward Coffey", who first appeared in a 1699 record as an indentured servant in Virginia.

Well, I said 10 generations. But there may only be 9. We've got a problem with Edward's grandson, "Chesley". He may not be real, and we may need to skip a generation. But with or without him, DNA tests say Edward is solidly my ancestor. You'll see why in a moment.

Looking at the middle, my GG Grandfather Newton Eli Coffey had multiple brothers and sons. I've tested descendants from three of his brothers, and from another of his sons, and all are an excellent match. We are all absolutely "family"! The tested men are in the orange boxes on the left.

But how do I KNOW I have Edward's y-DNA, and that nothing has gone astray? Hey, Edward did NOT leave a small family! I have a LOT of tests on Edward's descendants. And the Coffeys have a lot of genealogists who have been tracking records for many, many years.

The Edward Group - Descendants of His Son John



The Edward Group - Descendants of His Son John

Here's a PART of the extended family, starting with Edward on the right. Remember, Edward got to America early, and his descendants had big families, many with 6, 8 or 10 children. Just think how many descendants Edward might have!

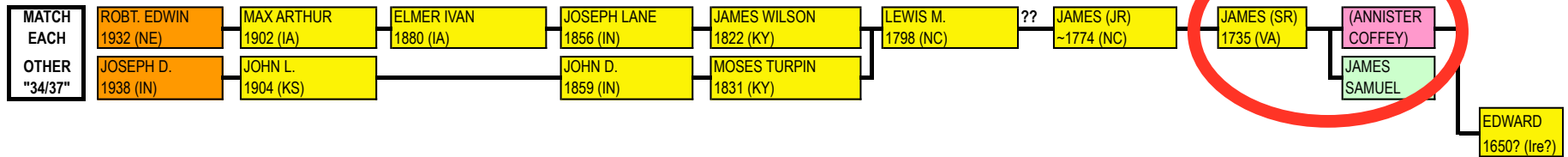
And each of these people on the left have done a y-DNA test, and many of them have family genealogists who have been chasing details for generations. Most of the tested people did the test just to PROVE their connection.

This is only the top part of one of my charts for Edward descendants. These are some of the ones who descend from his son John. I personally come from John's brother, Edward Jr.

But these are the "boring" people. They got married. They and their spouses were loyal to each other. And they had children. Nothing exciting there to talk about.

Are there things about a typical family that DNA can reveal, that are OUT of the ordinary? Absolutely! And that's where it gets to be interesting!

Edward Connections (1)



Edward Connections (1)

Here's one of my favorite family stories. Here we're also starting with Edward on the right.

Edward had a daughter, Annister, who had a son out of wedlock in 1735, and whom she named "James Coffey". And we have two tested men, who descend from this James. And of course their y-DNA does not match anyone in the "Edward Group", because y-DNA cannot be handed down through a female such as Annister.

This was no secret. Poor Annister got hauled into a Virginia court for her indiscretion, and all the nosey Coffey genealogists know about it.

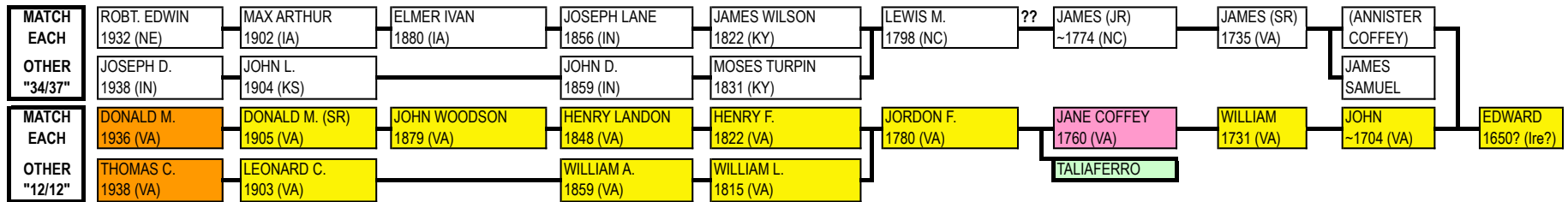
Her son James' family history has long been known, but the mystery has been "**Who was the father of James?**" And thanks to DNA, now we know, **solving a 275 year old paternity case!** The father was one James Samuel, born 14 Jun 1690, died 16 May 1759.

We had a hint that the Samuel family might be involved. Given that hint, we then solicited help from living descendants of that Samuel family, and got excellent DNA matches!

(Actually, DNA only proves that the father was SOMEONE in this "Samuel" family, and it could be a brother or a son of James Samuel. But James is the clear Prime Suspect. It's like the famous "Thomas Jefferson / Sally Heming" case. Sally was a slave of Thomas Jefferson, and DNA proves that someone from the Jefferson family fathered one or more of Sally's children. And circumstantial evidence then points to "Thomas".)

And if a new "Coffey" subject shows up, who doesn't know his genealogy but matches these men, I can say "Your Coffey ancestor is Annister, daughter of Edward!"

Edward Connections (2)



Edward Connections (2)

Here's a similar case, also previously suspected: Jane Coffey (1760, VA) was a great-granddaughter of Edward, Jane passed on her Coffey name to son Jordon, but of course not the y-DNA. Speculation was that the father might be the man she later married, named Fitzgerald. However we now know the father was a "Taliaferro", based on DNA tests and on the presence of Taliaferro men in the same county where Jordon was born.

The Taliaferro's know their genealogy. They have Italian roots. Their ancestor arrived in America before the Coffeys, and the family members were often close associates of the Coffey families.

And guess what else is interesting: The DNA of the Taliaferros, and of the matching Coffeys, is Haplogroup "E1". I'll talk about haplogroups later, but the DNA says they are of NORTH AFRICAN origin. How would an Italian get North African y-DNA? Hey, remember your history lesson, where Hannibal came from Africa and led his army across the Alps to invade Rome? His army stayed for 15 years.

We actually have several of these "extra marital affairs", involving Coffeys who acquired the DNA of other families, and vice-versa, each with interesting and complicated stories. I suspect that most large families may have similar stories.

Other Groups: "Munster" Group

Best Match	Person	"MUNSTER" GROUP:									
365598	(REF)	MICHAEL (KERRY, IRE)	MICHAEL (KERRY, IRE)	MICHAEL 1893 (KERRY)	MICHAEL 1864 (KERRY)	?	?	?	?	?	
37134	65 / 67	AEDAN D C 1961 (IRE)	D MANUS G 1935 (IRE)	H DIARMID J 1888 (DUBLIN)	GEORGE 1857 (DUBLIN)	JAMES CHARLES 1815 (DUBLIN)	EDMUND 1786 (DUBLIN)	EDMUND (KERRY, IRE)	DARBY (KERRY, IRE)	JOHN (KERRY, IRE)	
79519	63 / 67	JAMES M. (JR) 1965 (NY)	JAMES M (SR) 1942 (NY)	JAMES J. 1896 (PA)	MICHAEL 1867 (KERRY, IRE)	?					
169886	63 / 67	PAUL BRANCKY	LEO BRANCKY 1920 (IL)	<< LEO ADOPTED SEE NOTE >>	? FRANK COFFEY 1868 (IRE)	? LEO BRANCKY WAS ADOPTED. CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE IS THAT HIS GRANDFATHER WAS FRANK COFFEY. FRANK BORN IRELAND 1868, IMMIGRATED ABT 1880/83, SETTLED IN CHICAGO AREA.					DYS449=30
60918	62 / 67	STEPHEN 1951 (CA)	HERBERT 1924 (CA)	HERBERT 1897 (CA)	WILLIAM 1869 (CA)	WILLIAM 1845 (NY)	JAMES 1804 (IRELAND)	?			
266743	61 / 67	DANIEL DOMINIC	DANIEL MICHAEL 1947 (NY)	DANIEL F JR. 1920 (NY)	DANIEL F SR. 1883 (NJ)	MICHAEL 1843 (KERRY, IRE)	?				
47117	62 / 67	RBT. EUGENE 1939 (MI)	EUGENE C. 1913 (MI)	DANIEL FRANCIS 1870 (MI)	DANIEL F. 1841 (IRE)	DANIEL (IRELAND)	?				
31891	62 / 67	JAMES (JR)	JAMES EDWARD 1913 (NY)	WILLIAM 1877 (NY)	WILLIAM 1845 (CORK, IRE)	?					
178093	12 / 12	JOHN JOSEPH 1948 (MA)	WILLIAM EDWARD 1913 (MA)	JEREMIAH C 1874 (MA)	JAMES 1849 (IRE)	?					
139027	60 / 67	DAN ALAN ROSS 1956 (TX)	DANIEL R ROSS 1923 (TX)	DANIEL W ROSS 1896 (OK)	CHARLES ROSS 1864 (MS?LA?)	?					DYS449=29
Ancestry .com	27 / 29	WILLIAM EDWARD 1922 (PA)	JOHN CHRISTOPHER 1884 (CORK, IRE)	JOHN (IRE)							
223632	31 / 37	MARTIN JAMES	MARTIN ALEXANDR	MARTIN ALEXANDR 1901 (CT)	JEREMIAH JOS. 1863 (CORK, IRE)	CORNELIUS (IRELAND)	?				
32224	57 / 67	ALAN DALE (OK)	LAWRENCE D. 1929 (OK)	HUBERT DENSON 1905 (OK)	JOEL W.L. 1874 (AL)	? JOHN JAMES 1851 (AL)	? JOEL W. 1826 (AL)	?			

Other Groups: "Munster" Group

I've been talking about my own Coffey line, down from Edward Coffey. But Edward was here by 1699, and you probably think of the "Irish" as mostly arriving in America at the time of the big potato famine. And our DNA project HAS attracted men whose ancestors did arrive in the 1800's. And DNA says most are NOT related to Edward!

“Munster” is an ancient region of southwest Ireland, which included what are now the modern Counties Kerry and Cork. Here's a group that are genetically similar to each other, and with many people who KNOW their ancestors came from these counties.

So we've started calling all the people with matching y-DNA the "Munster" group.

These Munster men are all clearly related, but some are more related than others. I think Munster was an ancient Coffey homeland, where slow DNA evolution gradually divided the male lines into two separate groups.

Other Groups: "Counties Meath/Westmeath/Roscommon" Group

"COUNTY MEATH" GROUP A									
Best Match	Person Tested								
<u>JOHN W</u>									
121709 (REF)	JOHN WILLARD 1962 (OH)	JOHN WILLARD SR 1937 (OH)	ARTHUR ROY 1904 (OH)	ROBERT STAR 1866 (KY)	ROLLEY 1829 (KY)		AMBROSE JR. 1787 (KY)	AMBROSE 1759 (CO. DUBLIN)	
85718 12/12 34/37	DAVID LYNN	LAWRENCE H 1924 (TN)	AMBROSE M. 1902 (KY)	JOSHUA 1865 (KY)			ELIJAH 1798 (KY)		
Ancestry.com 29/30	JEFFREY WM	WILLIAM B 1948 (OH)	CHARLES W 1925 (KY)	BRUCE A 1905 (KY)	JOHN T 1865 (KY)	HARVEY M 1840 (KY)	WILEY J 1817 (KY)	WILLIAM 1785 (KY)	
Ancestry.com 28/30	JOHNNIE A* 1946	JOHNNIE C 1916		JOSEPH RICHARD 1868	WILLIAM A 1836	MASON W 1814			*Has an identical Twin, "Donald"
127425 12/12 35/37	JAMES JOSEPH 1930 (NY)	JAMES JOSEPH SR 1894 (DUBLIN)							

"COUNTIES MEATH / WESTMEATH" GROUP B									
Best Match	Person Tested								
<u>LAWRENCE</u>									
207121 (REF)	LAWRENCE E	ALVIN LOUIS 1903 (LA)		RICHARD FRENCH 1860 (LA)	JOHN FRENCH 1826 (LA)	BERNARD 1798 (C WESTMEATH)	JOHN C. WESTMEATH		
72279 12/12 35/37	VERNON C. 1923 (IA)	CHRISTOPHER 1889 (CO. MEATH IRE)	CHRISTOPHER 1860 (CO. MEATH)		CHRISTOPHER 1807 (CO. MEATH)	MICHAEL 17?? (CO. MEATH)	MAURICE ?? (IRELAND)		
45425 12/12 36/37	WILLIAM J. H. (NJ)	JOHN H. JR 1918 (NJ)	JOHN HILLMAN 1880 (NJ)	EUGENE M. 1880 (NJ)	SAMUEL HILLMAN 1849 (PA)	WILLIAM F. 1811 (NJ)	IZAAC ZANE 1776 (NJ)	JAMES JR. ? (PA)	JAMES ? (?)
Ancestry.com 11/12 31/33	DANIEL JAMES	JAMES JOHN 1923 (PA)	DANIEL ALOYSIUS 1892 (PA)	JOHN 1848 (IRE)	PATRICK (IRE)				

"COUNTIES WESTMEATH / ROSCOMMON" GROUP C									
Best Match	Person Tested								
<u>LAWRENCE</u>									
416168 33/37	JAMES MICHAEL 1967 (MA)	PAUL VINCENT 1930 (MA)	MATTHEW J 1884 (ROSCOMMON)	MICHAEL ~1851 (ROSCOMM.)					



Other Groups: "Counties Meath/Westmeath/Roscommon" Group

Here's another, quite unrelated, group, including many who can trace their immigrant ancestors to the area around Counties Meath and West Meath. And once again, there appear to be two sub-groups.

And here the test offers a possible clue: Their test result comes with this flag: These people all have y-DNA characteristic of "Niall of the Nine Hostages".

Niall (pronounce "Nile") was a powerful Irish chieftain. He got his name from the taking of hostages to terrorize his opponent chieftains in the 5th century. He started a dynasty that produced the most powerful rulers of Ireland until the 11th century. And there is a study suggesting that up to 1 out of every 12 Irishmen descend from Niall.

And that fits well with the idea of three sub-groups. The common connection between them may go well back into the 1600 years that have passed since Niall ruled.

We use the acronym "MRCA" for "Most Recent Common Ancestor". Was the MRCA of these two groups an ancient ancestor named "Coffey"? Well, maybe. But it could also go back to the time before surnames became hereditary, and it may just be coincidence that the two groups chose to use the name "Coffey"!

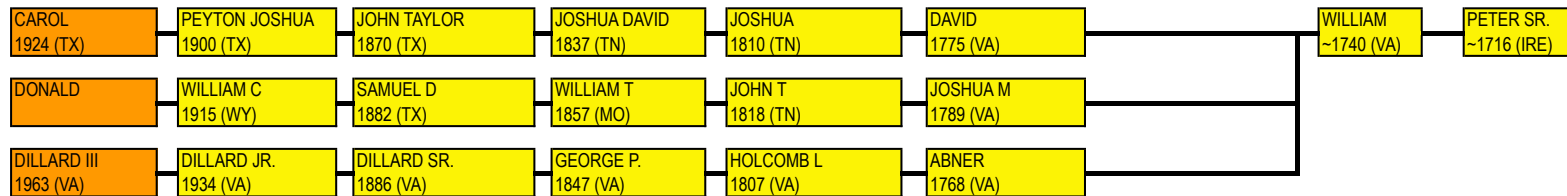
Oh, the guy at the top right, "Ambrose", had long been a puzzle to Coffey genealogists. If you visit Fort Boonesboro, founded by Daniel Boone, you will find Ambrose listed as a fighter in the 1778 indian siege. And the DNA has now finally told us that Ambrose is NOT my distant cousin. He is totally unrelated!

But Where is MY Irish Homeland????

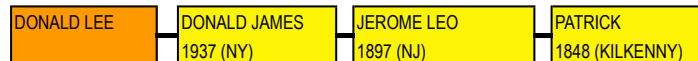
EDWARD COFFEY GROUP:



PETER COFFEE GROUP:



PATRICK COFFEY FROM KILKENNY:

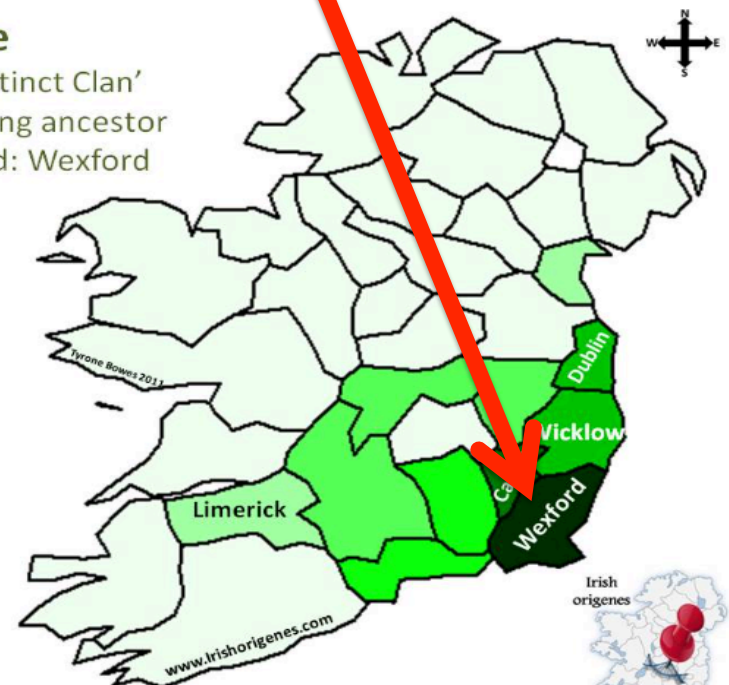
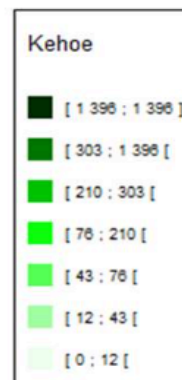


KEOGH GROUP:

(11 PEOPLE: KEOGH / KEOUGH/ KEHOE / KAHO / KEAY)

Kehoe

Native Irish '1 distinct Clan'
Estimated 1 founding ancestor
Genetic homeland: Wexford



But Where is MY Irish Homeland????

Hey, I belong to the "Edward" group, the biggest group of Coffeys in America, and I searched for years for a solid Irish match to our line and name. And thanks to DNA we now have have it! And the answer was quite unexpected:

I've represented the "Edward Group" with a single line above. And we've long known that the "Peter Group" was related, but with an unknown connection.

And we found a MATCHING y-DNA test on a descendant of a more recent immigrant - Patrick Coffey, who arrived in America in 1863 from Ballyhale, in County Kilkenny.

And we've known for a while that we had a lot of matches to people with variations on the "Keogh" name. And I now refer to our extended family as "Coffey/Keogh".

And after examination of the possible DNA evolution, I came to the conclusion that we were all originally "Keogh", and that the Coffey lines evolved off from the Keogh lines! We all started out as "Keogh"!

I have a lengthy and complicated report that I will share with anyone. And I invite anyone to examine, and advise if they think I got it wrong.

About y-DNA Surname Projects

I am "co-administrator" of the Coffey Surname Project.

I'm involved in others - there are thousands of active projects.

Individual results can be compared against all projects.

About y-DNA Surname Projects

There are now more than a half-million people who have done y-DNA tests, with their data now in the testing service computers. And those computers compare my y-DNA with every tested person, except for a few that have requested privacy.

Most people doing y-DNA testing like to organize themselves into "Surname Projects", because they want most to compare their results to others with the same surname.

I am keenly interested in the surname "Coffey". And I am co-administrator of that Project. As of 2017, we have more than 200 members who claim some sort of "Coffey" connection.

I'm also active in "Walker" which is VERY common name. The Walker Project has nearly 1100 tests on men in 80+ groups. But my "tested male Walker Cousin" came up "Group 42", and there are 13 matching lines. I've now exchanged a couple hundred notes with my new proven cousins, and I think of myself as "sub-administrator" for "Group 42".

If your name is "Smith", you have a LOT of company: The "Smith" project has over 3000 already-tested members, in over 200 quite unrelated groups. Whenever a new "Smith" shows up, the DNA test will immediately slot him into the proper group. BINGO, you've found your cousins!

Of course anybody who can't find a project he likes can start a new one!

Coffey & Walker: "Haplogroup R1b"

Consider reading: "The Journey of Man"

or "Deep Ancestry: Inside the Genographic Project"

Both by Dr. Spencer Wells

"...to trace the migration of human beings from our earliest homes in Africa to the farthest reaches of the globe..."

"...Wells calls on recent DNA research..."

Coffey & Walker: "Haplogroup R1b"

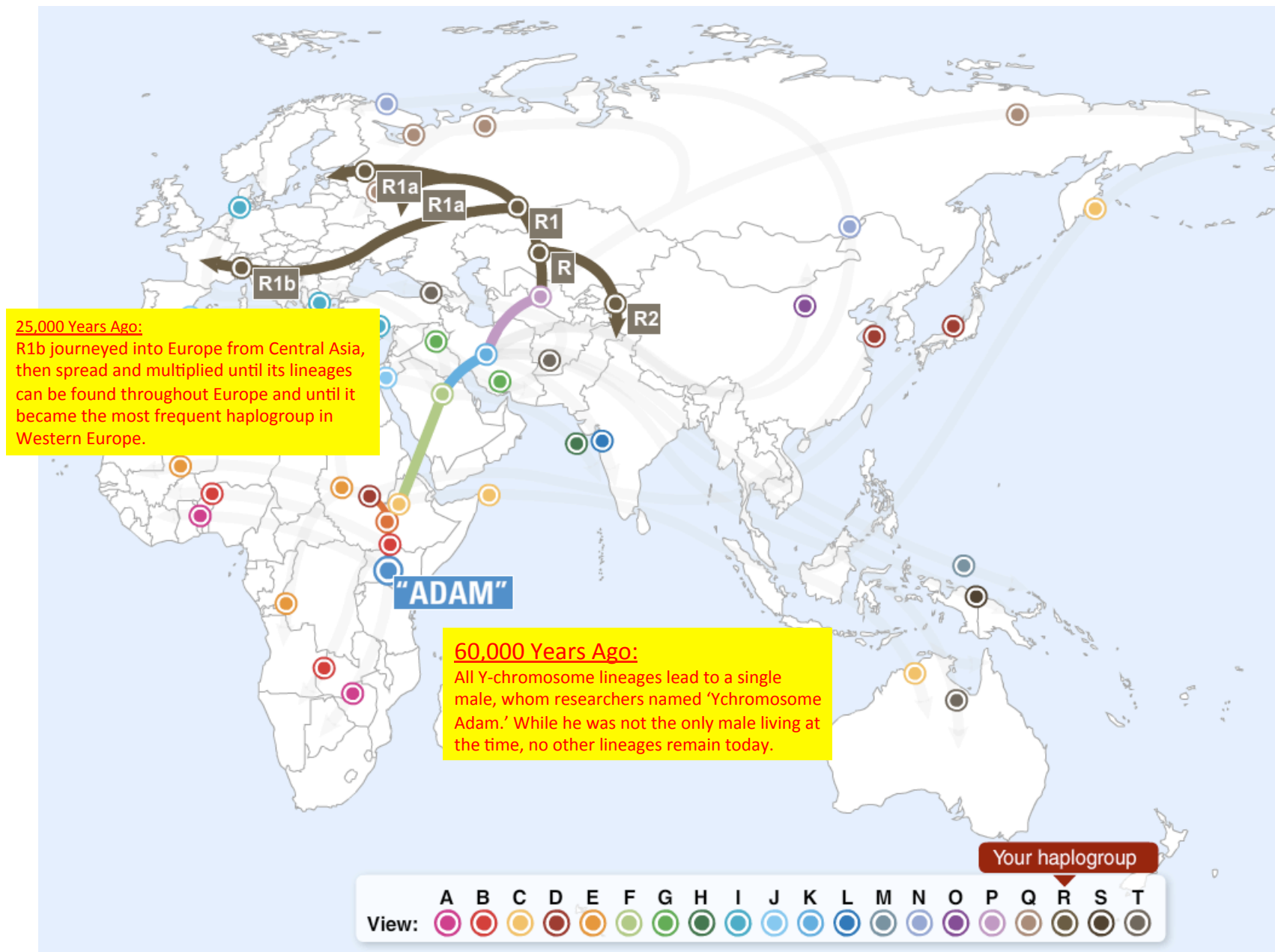
Y-DNA can also look back thousands of years, and the basic test reveals something called a "haplogroup". My own haplogroup is "R1b".

You may have seen TV shows that talk about the origins and movements of various populations of humans, as they populated the Earth. If you're interested in learning more than I have to say here, I suggest you might consider reading "The Journey of Man", by Spencer Wells. He has also written other related books. One of these is "Deep Ancestry - Inside the Genographic Project" done in cooperation with National Geographic.

As you have just seen, there are SEVERAL entirely separate groups of families that call themselves "Coffey", but that are clearly not related even if you go back hundreds of years. And of course I have my Walker group, who are clearly not "Coffey".

But if you're willing to think in terms of THOUSANDS of years, the Coffeys and the Walkers are indeed "cousins". Both belong to y-DNA Haplogroup "R1b", which gives them a degree of connection. Let's talk about that:

Most Coffeys are Group "R1b"



Most Coffeys are Group "R1b"

Spencer Wells and other scientists believe that all "Y-chromosome lineages" can be traced back to a single male who lived about 60,000 years ago in Africa. They call him "y-chromosome Adam". There were other males present at that time, but their y-DNA lines did not survive.

From this so-called "Adam", the y-DNA evolved in many different directions. One of those branches became "R1b", and that is the branch the Coffey and Walker families belong to. It showed up in Europe about 25,000 years ago. It's now the most common group in Europe.

There are many other major "branches" on the world family tree, as shown by the list at the bottom. The basic y-DNA test reveals which major branch you belong to.

FYI, there are additional tests that define additional splits off of each major human branch. These are called "SNP" tests - they were mentioned in the first section. I am positive for SNP "R-L176", and that places my male line's origin in Iberia, today's Portugal and Spain, about 4000 to 5000 years ago.

But the Coffeys are Irish! How did we get from there to Ireland?

Lebor Gabála Éirenn



Lebor Gabála Érenn

Hey, I'm not above grasping at straws. Irish Mythology says Ireland was settled by five waves of invaders, and the LAST were the Milesians. And the Milesians came from IBERIA!

To give you a big picture perspective, the OVERALL story says that the FIRST wave was led by Cessair. She was the daughter of Bith. And Bith was a son of Noah - the famous Ark builder. Bith was told to flee west with his family and friends, and they all arrived in Ireland exactly 40 days before the big flood!

It's a stretch, but at the moment it's the best I can do! Maybe future DNA tests will shed more light?

CAUTION: This is a Form of Paternity Test!

May not be a good idea to test two close relatives.

If Brothers or First Cousins match, we've learned nothing.

If they don't match, your family may have learned something they would rather not know!

CAUTION: This is a Form of Paternity Test!

Before we leave y-DNA testing: I've been asked a couple of times "Would it be helpful if my (brother, cousin, uncle) also got the test?" And the answer is generally "No".

Almost always such close tests will be an exact, or almost exact, match. And we will have learned nothing new.

But a "NON-match" between two brothers? Think about it. THAT may raise disturbing family questions!

Always keep in mind this is a form of paternity test. Many people are simply amused if they find a distant ancestor was having an affair. It may be less so if the connections are close!

By the way, for the test result examples we have talked about I DO have permission to make them public. I have had one case with a potential for embarrassment, and the subject and I agreed to keep it all out of our database.

His first problem was that the test said "not Coffey", which would usually be only a disappointment. But he RECOGNIZED the surname that did match. And it convinced him his mother had married the wrong boy friend!

Requirements for Participation?

- > Going to need a computer.
(Or a Friend with a computer.)**
- > Probably should already be knowledgeable about their family tree.**
- > Big benefit will be in exchanging information with their matches.**

Requirements for Participation?

What kind of people might be interested in y-DNA testing, and what would they need?

First, be aware you are going to need a computer, or at least a friend with a computer. You can **ONLY** sign up for a DNA test online, and you will **ONLY** be able to see and study your results online. The testing services will **NOT** send out paper reports.

Second, most interested people ought to already be involved in working on their genealogy, or prepared to do so very soon.

They will almost certainly have matches, and one of the great values is being able to work with those good matches to advance your shared knowledge of your Family Tree. Your matches will have comments and questions, and the Project Administrators may jump in as well. You ought to know enough about your family, particularly the surname line, to engage in a conversation.