

by John F. Gray

CLEVELAND COFFEY
AND
JESSE T. COFFEY

Cleveland and Jesse T. Coffey were brothers, sons of Jesse and Margaret (Edmiston) Coffey. A 1844 land transaction involving heirs of Jesse Coffey in Ashe County, North Carolina, names Cleveland and Jesse T. Coffey of Grainger County, Tennessee as his sons. They came to Tennessee before the 1840 census was taken.

Cleveland was a farmer and mechanic, he helped establish the Cedar Spring Baptist Church, near Thorn Hill, Grainger County, Tennessee, in 1846. Cleveland had more than one wife, the mother of his first four children was Susan Hayes. His second or third wife was Malinda Coffey, married November 11, 1839 in Grainger County. We know of five children. They moved back to North Carolina before the 1860 census. I think Malinda was the daughter of George and Margaret Rucker Coffey. Cleveland and Susan's children.

1. Andrew Jackson Coffey, born December 1, 1833 in Ashe County, North Carolina, died December 3, 1903 in Dugginsville, Ozark County, Missouri, married September 1, 1851 in Grainger County, Tennessee to Louisa Jane Hutchinson, the daughter of Jeremiah and Mary [Polly] (King) Hutchinson. They moved to Ozark County, Missouri in November 1854, the journey by wagon from Tennessee took twenty-six days. He rented land for one year after his arrival in Ozark County, Missouri, then lived on Little North Fork until the opening of the War. During the struggle between the North and South his family lived in Douglas and Webster counties. Andrew Jackson served in the Home Guards until the fall of 1861, when he joined Col. John S. Phelps' regiment of Six Months' troops and was stationed at Rolla Missouri the most of the time. At the end of his term of enlistment he served in the Missouri State Militia, after which he was in the Sixth Provisional Regiment until the spring of 1864, when he was detailed home to raise a corps, and in the fall of that year joined the Forty-sixth Missouri Infantry as second lieutenant of Company I, and was thereafter in Ozark County, Missouri. He served as sheriff of Ozark County, being appointed by the Governor to finish a term in May of 1865. He was elected to a 6 year term in March 1867. After serving as sheriff he was elected in 1873 to the Missouri State Legislature on the Democratic ticket and served on the Committees on Retrenchment and Reform, County Boundaries, etc. On March 16, 1867 Andrew Jackson applied for his pension that he had earned because of his duty in the Civil War. The following is the statement that was listed as his qualification for pension. *That while a member of the organization aforesaid, (Phelps regiment of Missouri Vols commanded by Capt. George Evans) Andrew Jackson Coffey was honorably discharged at Springfield, Missouri on the 12 day of May 1862; that his personal description is as follows: Age, 54 years; height, 5 feet 9 inches; complexion, fair; hair, dark; eyes, black. That while a member of the organization aforesaid, in the service and in the line of his duty, at Lebanon, in the state of Missouri, on or about the _____ day of February, 1862, he from exposure on the march from Rolla to Springfield, Missouri,*

was taken sick and left at Lebanon, Missouri, for 4 weeks with little hope of recovery - said fever or sickness resulted in spinal affection and continued misery in right side near the kidneys which has continued to the present time. He was not treated in hospital. After his injury he is now fully three fourths disabled from obtaining his substance by manual labor, by reason of his injuries, above described, received, in the service of the United States; and he therefore makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the invalid pension roll of the United States.

Andrew Jackson and Louisa had eight children. After Louisa's death he married Rachel Imes daughter of William and Mary Ann (Hutchinson) Imes on January 11, 1872. Rachel Imes was a niece of A.J. Coffey's other wife Louisa Hutchinson, but no blood kin to A.J. They had eleven children. In 1893 A.J. took for his wife Nancy (Hamilton) Tannehill, they had one child. This made a total of twenty children for Andrew Jackson. According to Basil Coffey of Pontiac, Missouri a grand son of A.J., through Albert Coffey the son of A.J. and Rachel Imes, A.J. had a wife at the age of sixteen. The records do not show her name, but she died of a "spell" after seventeen days of marriage. This made four wives for Andrew Jackson. In the 1850 census Andrew Jackson is seventeen and listed as living with James and Elizabeth McAnally in Grainger County, Tennessee. I have researched this and I don't know how or why he is living with the McAnally's there is no record as to whether they are any relation to A.J. The following are children of Andrew Jackson and Louisa Jane Hutchinson:

- A. Susan J. Coffey, born about 1857.
- B. Thomas J. Coffey, born about 1859.
- C. William W. Coffey, born about 1860.
- D. James Timp Coffey, born about 1864, married Martha Jane Anderson died about 1914. James Timp and Martha Jane had 11 children.
 - a. William Wesley Coffey, born June 28, 1886, Ozark County, Missouri, first wife was Dora Uption, died at child birth in 1912. He died February 27, 1930, buried in Commerce, Oklahoma. They had 1 child.
 1. Rufus Timp Coffey, born March 21, 1912, married Flora Lay. Died November 12, 1992 in Blackwell, Oklahoma. Second wife Ida Florence Manning, born June 11, 1892 in Cedar Gap, Wright County, Missouri. Married September 1, 1912. Died May 11, 1958 in Hominy, Oklahoma. They had 6 children.
 1. Margie Pauline Coffey, born May 12, 1914. Married June 15, 1934 to James Ray Iness. Died April 29, 1973. They had three children.
 - a. Sonny Edward Iness, born February 9, 1936 in Marshall, Searcy County, Arkansas, died April 29, 1973, buried in Cleveland, Oklahoma.
 - b. Shiela Jean Iness, born June 6, 1939 in Prue, Oklahoma. First husband Charles Toothman, second husband Bob Cole.

- c. Shirley June Iness, born October 10, 1941, in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, married Henry Elledge.
- 2. Frankie Mellissa Coffey, born October 9, 1916. Married November 12, 1936 to Orville Houston Gray. They had two children.
 - a. Johnnie Eugene Gray, born March 24, 1939, at Boston Pool, Osage County, Oklahoma. Married Allene Sharpnack June 23, 1961 in Cleveland, Oklahoma.
 - b. Jimmie Earl Gray, born September 26, 1942 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Married to first wife Patricia Ann Ellis in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, married second wife Deborah Jane Keeling September 1, 1973 in Oologah, Oklahoma.
- 3. Virgil Coffey, born September 25, 1919. Married March 4, 1939 to Dolly Cravens. Died September 22, 1944. They had 1 child, who was born after the death of Virgil Coffey.
 - a. Linda Kay Coffey, born December 25, 1944. Married Jim Huben.
- 4. Lucille Coffey, born February 15, 1922. Married August 28, 1941 to James Bailey. They had 2 children.
 - a. Barbara Bailey, born August 17, 1942. Married Frank Nancarrow.
 - b. Susan Bailey, born October 8, 1951. Married Paul Medlock.
- 5. Eugene Willis Coffey, born February 2, 1925. Married May 28, 1949 to Betty Delonas. They had two children.
 - a. Vickie Elaine Coffey, born November 27, 1950. Married Keith Reagan.
 - b. Elizabeth Gene Coffey, born December 2, 1955. Married Randy Pierce.
- 6. LaVerne Coffey, born April 5, 1926. Married September 11, 1944 to Virgil Biggs. Died March 17, 1965.
- b. Alta Coffey, born about 1888, married Orr Carr.
- c. Delphia Coffey, born June 15, 1889. Married Will Meade. Died October 16, 1984.
- d. Walter Coffey, born about 1892. Married Ethel _____.
- e. Dorothy Coffey, born about 1896. Married Lee Mayfield.
- f. H. A. Coffey, born about 1900. Married Mildred _____.
- g. Oma Coffey, born December 19, 1901. Married Dewey Payne. Died July 24, 1988.
- h. Fronia Coffey, born March 20, 1904. Married Carl Hancock on March 11, 1929. Died July 21, 1986.

- i. Arizona Coffey, born about 1906. Her dress caught fire and she died from the flames at 3 years of age.
- j. Marlon Coffey, born about 1908. Married Lou _____. Died September 17, 1964.
- k. Vonda Coffey, born about 1910.
- E. Andrew Jackson Coffey Jr., born about 1864.
- F. Cleveland P. Coffey, born about 1868.
- G. Mary J. Coffey, born about 1869.
- H. Athela M. Coffey, born about 1870

The following are children of Andrew Jackson and Rachel Imes.

- A. Joseph Ambrose Coffey, born about 1872.
- B. Louisa Jane Coffey, born about 1874. This child was named after Andrew Jackson's first wife Louisa Jane Hutchinson, who was the aunt of Rachel Imes.
- C. Mahala Coffey, born about 1876.
- D. Averalla Coffey, born about 1878.
- E. Robert S. Coffey, born about 1879.
- F. Mellissa Coffey, born about 1881.
- G. Charles Coffey, born 8 May 1882.
- H. John A. Coffey, born 16 April 1884.
- I. Francis M. (Frank) Coffey, born 8 January 1886.
- J. Effie Coffey, born 4 May 1889.
- K. Albert (Bert) Coffey, born 22 June 1891.

The following is the only child of Andrew Jackson and Nancy (Hamilton) Tannehill.

- A. May O. Coffey, born 22 March 1895.
2. William W. Coffey, born about 1834, died in 1864, married August 1, 1854 to Gelina Shouse, born September 18, 1834, died July 16, 1916, buried in cemetery near grandson Rufus Coffey's house. Gelina was a sister to Henry Thomas Shouse that married Dicy Coffey. William W. Coffey and four other Coffey boys Simeon, Perry, Calvin, and Marvel joined the Company "D" 26th Tennessee Infantry in the CSA. Marvel was the only one of the five to survive the war. Calton Coffey who joined the same unit later, deserted and survived. William W. died near Marietta, Georgia of a shot in the thigh. He had three children.
- A. Malinda Coffey, born about 1855, married to _____ Hayes and moved to Arkansas.
 - B. Berry Wisdom Lafette Coffey, born October 15, 1857, died January 1, 1936, married three times, first _____ Dalton, second _____ Schockley, and third wife was Mary Jane Sheffield, born August 25, 1870, died January 17, 1956.
Berry and Mary Jane's children are incomplete:
 - a. Rufus Coffey, married _____ Dalton.
 - C. John Cleveland Coffey, born November 4, 1859, died June 2, 1936, married January 7, 1880 to Margaret Jane Wolfe, born July 29, 1836, died September 8, 1935. She was the daughter of William and Maleta

(Hipsher) Wolfe. They had thirteen children.,

- a. Infant son, died at birth December 17, 1880.
 - b. William Franklin Coffey, born March 14, 1882, died August 28,
 - c. Laura Coffey, born March 2, 1884, died March 13, 1962,
married Mary Lakins, second wife married September 6, 1912
to Leoder White.
 - d. Carter Jackson Coffey, born April 22, 1886, died July 31, 1957,
married February 24, 1912 to Mary Ann Turner.
 - e. Dulcena Coffey, born March 31, 1888, died December 11, 1974,
married March 20, 1908 to Arthur Mallicoat.
 - f. Gold Ballard Coffey, born May 2, 1890, died March 15, 1966,
married November 17, 1915, to Louisa Barker.
 - g. Jefferson Dice Coffey, born August 25, 1892, died _____,
married December 30, 1923 to Effie Harville. Jeff was living
with his daughter Grace Coffey Beeler in Washburn, Tennessee
when I met him in 1982. Jeff was most interesting, a delightful,
entertaining personality, a little hard of hearing as all of the
older Coffeys are. I didn't have time to go see him when I was
in Tennessee in 1983.
 - h. Lou Coffey, born September 12, 1894, died July 1895.
 - i. James Everett Coffey, born May 17, 1897, died May 9, 1977,
married April 25, 1926 to Bessie Owens, second wife, married
February 11, 1934 to Edna Carman.
 - j. Hattie Pearl Coffey, born September 24, 1900, married August
30, 1925 to Tilmon Harrison Dalton.
 - k. Horace Marcus Coffey, born March 12, 1903, married August
7, 1938 to Lillian Oleta Marshall, one daughter.
 - l. Myrtle Belle Coffey, born February 24, 1906, married December
7, 1926 to James Lamb, second husband, married 1933 to
Mason Campbell. She was born in Wildie, Kentucky.
 - m. Lona Reldy Coffey, born March 9, 1909, died July 30, 1973,
married October 26, 1934 to Hasker Redding.
3. Thomas Y. Coffey, born about 1835.
 4. Susan E. Coffey, born about 1838, married Aaron McGinnis.
- Cleveland and Malinda's children:
5. George H. Coffey, born about 1841.
 6. Margaret E. Coffey, born about 1842.
 7. Nancy M. Coffey, born 1844.
 8. Frances L. Coffey, born 1846.
 9. Daniel P. Coffey, born 1849.

Jesse T. Coffey, born January 16, 1807 or 1818, died before the first Monday of
December 1847, married December 24, 1838 in Grainger County to Lettie Collins. The
1810 and 1830 census indicates the Collins were Indian. Lettie must have also died

young, because Jesse T.'s brother McCaleb Coffey, came from North Carolina to take their two young daughters home with him to raise.

1. Sarah Coffey
2. Mary Jane Coffey, married Wyatt Hayes.

Everett Coffey has a 1830 publication date small Bible, with the following inscription: The Best of Books this July 23, 1838, Jesse T. Coffey. The day of judgment is an awful day, O man when will man think of the as they aught O God cause them to meditate.

Everett W. Coffey's ancestor, William M. Coffey, had this Bible and recorded family information in it. It also has the only birth record I have found for John and Elizabeth Rucker Coffey. I think William M. came into possession of the Bible at Jesse T. Coffey's estate sale. Edmund Collins was administrator of Jesse T.'s estate. William has been proven as John and Elizabeth's son by land transactions and John's War of 1812 Bounty Land papers. It has also been proven that Jesse T. is not John and Elizabeth's son by land transactions in Ashe County, North Carolina.

Sources: Marie Coffey Ryals, Robert C. Coffey, Edith Vines, Marvin D. Coffey, Jefferson D. Coffey, Marcus Coffey, and John E. Gray.