

Bonnie Cully

LEWIS M. COFFEY AND HIS PIONEER FAMILY

ASSEMBLING THE STORY

Living today in Illinois, Indiana, California, Kansas, Oregon, Iowa, North Carolina, Washington, New York, Wisconsin, Virginia, Arizona, Missouri, Nebraska, Florida, Texas, and surely elsewhere are several hundred people who have one very exclusive thing in common. The names of these people indicate the mix of nationalities consistent with the pattern of most Americans. Some of the names are as common as Smith and Jones. In fact some of them ARE Smith and Jones. There are also some named Knudsen, Schweiss, Nestle, Beechem, Quasim, Halda, and Viles. The unifying factor linking all these people is the name Lewis M. Coffey, a common ancestor. While attempts are being made to locate and record information on the entire family, the purpose of this paper is to tell the story, as known at this time, of this hardy pioneer, his children and grandchildren, many of whom were also pioneers in their own right.

The writing of this paper is partly for selfish reasons. The compiler hopes to stimulate interest and even criticism where the reader knows of errors or incomplete data. Readers who have additional facts are requested to write and/or send the enclosed "FAMILY DATA SHEET". This information will be included in the next booklet covering later generations of the family.

The information on these pages has been gleaned from many public and historical records. It was far from a one person effort. County clerks, librarians, and interested family members have helped find the obscure fact in a crumbling book or document. There were some great rewards. One was the "discovery" of unknown cousins in many states, such as the great grandchildren of James Wilson Coffey of Iowa. They supplied reams of data listing dozens of his descendents and opening doors to knowledge of the adult lives of his brothers and sisters. We thank Helen Grass, Katy Morrison, and Francis Coffey for this boon.

A great deal of information about Mary Ann "Polly" Cook was sent from Ridgeway, Missouri by Arloa and Lyle Edwards. Arloa wrote in 1981, "Do you have information on Polly Coffey who married John Cook?" our reply was "Dear Arloa, we are cousins!"

Great grandchildren of Nancy (Coffey) Jones were not located until 1983. They were unaware of the Coffey relationship. We were sorrowed by the death of our "new" 79 year old cousin, Ethel Hamilton Prather, the day after she gave us keys to others of the Jones family who may have lived in Monroe County, Indiana.

Descendants of other Lewis M. Coffey children have been located, and we need more information on their families. Hopefully, this can be obtained for the next report.

TO SEND OR REQUEST
ADDITIONAL DATA ABOUT THE FAMILY
CONTACT

LEONARD N. COFFEY
38 NORTH OUTER DRIVE
MARTINSVILLE, INDIANA 46151

THE COFFEY NAME

Most students of the origins of family names agree that the name, "COFFEY" is the anglicized equivalent of an ancient Gaelic name. Other spellings just as legitimate are: COFFEE, COFFE, COWHIG, COFTHIS, and others. Many early Americans did not have access to schools or teachers and were unable to read or write. When it was necessary to sign legal documents such as wills, deeds, and pension applications another person wrote the name and the subject made his "mark". The mark was not always "X" but occasionally a more elaborate sign. Early public officials may have earned their positions because of their literacy. But many used a free style of spelling with unfamiliar names. Lewis Coffey's family is listed as COFFEE, COFFA, and COFFY in Indiana records. Most of the first Coffeys who could write spelled their name COFFEY. Since it is impossible to establish one "correct" spelling some might suggest we all return to the original....."O'COFTHAIGH"

THE TURPIN FAMILY

It is reported that some individuals of this name trace their roots to French royalty. We do not know if our particular relatives can prove such a connection, but some of them settled in Virginia and like many Americans were a part of the revolutionary process that gave birth to our nation.

Martin Turpin age 72 filed for his pension in Pulaski County Kentucky in 1833. He stated that he was born in Rockingham County Virginia, January 25, 1761. He enlisted in Greenbriar County, Virginia (now a part of West Virginia) in 1778. After the war he lived in Madison and Garrard counties in Kentucky.

Another Turpin was a Moses who married Magdelin Black in Greenbriar County Virginia in 1781. Kentucky tax lists of 1800 show a John Black and a Martain Turpin in Pulaski county. In 1801 they are joined by Moses Turpin. The 1810 census for Kentucky lists two Moses Turpins. One of them had seven children and one had only one (a son). There were also listed two Solomon Turpins. An older one in nearby Wayne County and a younger one in Pulaski County.

In 1812 the will of Samuel Black was recorded naming as beneficiaries, several nephews named Samuel and his older sister Magdelin Turpin. Moses Turpin's will was proved in 1816. He named in the division of the estate his wife: Magdelin, sons: Solomon, Samuel, and Moses and daughters: Polly Long, Mariann Roberts, and Delilah Turpin. He made special provisions for Delilah to receive a horse named "Rainbow" at once and certain other proceeds when she came of age.

Magdelin (Magdelia) Turpin appears as landowner on the tax lists after Moses' death until 1826. Then she became Mrs. George Cundiff. Cundiff apparently lived only about a year after his marriage to Magdelin. She did not marry again.

EARLY COFFEY FAMILIES

The first Coffey in America seems to have been a John Coffey who arrived in 1637 and settled in Virginia. Nearly all that is known of his man is that he had descendants. One of those was Edward Coffey. Edward also had some descendants who left some record of their lives. Many researchers have studied this family and agree on most of the facts. They are also unanimously frustrated by succeeding generations where one or two households seem to have disappeared from records. They are equally confused by some families who seem to have magically appeared and cannot be traced to earlier residents or new immigrants.

In the 1700's many Coffey/Coffee families were living in Virginia and North Carolina in close family groups. So close in fact that marriage between cousins was common. These people had moved west as eastern lands became too costly or too crowded. New trails were blazed into the wilderness and in 1770 western North Carolina and Virginia were on the frontiers of American civilization. While a Daniel Boone was establishing a settlement in Virginia's Kentucky County, others were working new tracts of North Carolina. The Boonesboro settlement included two young Coffey boys who had been neighbors of the Boones on the Yadkin River in Surry County North Carolina.

That decade was a dramatic one that included a declaration of independence from the Crown, revolutionary war, and formation of a new nation. As western areas absorbed the new Americans, the vast county divisions became unwieldy and were divided into smaller and smaller areas. This to better accomodate the legal needs of the citizens. Surry County in North Carolina had been formed in 1771 of a portion of Rowan County. Surry in turn was split up in 1777 when the western part became Wilkes County. Several descendants of the "first" John Coffey were living there at the time. In 1789 the eastern portion of Surry was separated and Stokes County came about. This reorganization affected a James Coffey. He had received grants for land in Surry and was frequently called upon in court to serve as witness, constable, road surveyor, and once even as defendant. (He won that case). The state compiled a census in 1786/7 and James was the only Coffey listed in Surry Co. It was a rather ambiguous tally, telling only that the household contained: one male age 21-60, two males under 21 or over 60, four females and no slaves.

In 1790 the United States took it's first census. This survey found James Coffey in the new Stokes Co. His household contained three males over 16, four females and no slaves. From 1790 to 1800 James Coffey appears in numerous court records of Stokes Co. One of those was a loss of land by sheriff's sale.

The second U. S. census was taken in 1800. It found that the residents of Stokes included a Micajah Coffey whose family was only one male and one female both between 26 and 45. James Coffey was also still there with two males between 0-10, one male and one female age 10-16, and a male and female both over 44.

There is rather good testimony that Lewis M. Coffey was born in Stokes Co. North Carolina in 1798. It is not proved that Lewis M. was the son of James Coffey nor has a record of Lewis' childhood been located. Kentucky achieved statehood in 1792. The westward rush was on again. Pioneers from the east flooded into its three huge counties. The pattern of dividing counties continued in Kentucky so that early residents could find themselves in a new county every few years. From 1800 to 1820 Coffeys were living in what are now Adair, Wayne, Pulaski, Russell, and Cumberland. Some of them were James Coffeys.

THE LEWIS M. COFFEY FAMILY

The earliest document upon which our ancestor appears is the First Marriage Book of Pulaski County, Kentucky. It notes that "Levi" Coffey and Delilah Turpin were joined in January of 1818 by the Reverend John Black. Lewis "Levi" was two months past his nineteenth birthday and Delilah would not be 16 for another three months. The name "Levi" may have been due to the reverends' poor spelling or poor memory. The record was entered by the county clerk from a list supplied by the minister at the end of a circuit of several months and a few other marriages. The clerk may also have misread the notes or perhaps the name was "Levi" at the time. Later information, however, leaves no doubt that this was our Lewis.

The newly weds made their home in Pulaski Co. but exactly where is not known. Lewis cannot be found in the census of 1820. He did appear on the county tax lists each year from 1818 to 1827. He appeared as: Lewis Coffey, Lewis Coffee, M. Lewis Coffey, and M. Lewis Coffee. In 1827 he was listed as farming 50 acres of third rate land in the Cumberland River District. He owned no studs, jacks, or slaves and his evaluation was listed at \$150.00. In this ten year period, Lewis and Delilah became the parents of Nancy in 1819, James in 1822, Mary Ann "Polly" in 1824, and probably Bettie who survived only a short while. They may have lived with Delilah's mother, farming a portion of Moses Turpin's estate. In 1820 Magdelin completed settlement of the estate by paying Lewis \$141.00 and Benjamin Roberts \$45.00.

Magdelin Turpin continued living on her husband's land from 1816 to 1825. In 1825 Magdelin married George Cundiff who died in 1826.

In 1827 Lewis decided to move his family to Indiana and arrived in the fall in Jackson Township of Morgan County. Exact details of the move are available in two versions: 1. The family moved in the fall of 1827 and settled on a farm of 101 acres. 2. Lewis moved to Indiana in 1828 where he entered, cleared, and sold land. No record has been found where Lewis held title to land. Some of the early settlers did arrive in the fall of the year, without their families. They would enter a claim, clear trees all winter, build a shelter and move their families in the spring. At least his family was in Indiana by September of 1828 for John L. Coffey, the second son was born there. In 1830 the U.S. census listed Lewis Coffee in Jackson Township p. 236 with one male under 5 years, one 5-10, one 30-40 and females: one 5-10, one 10-15, and one 20-30. In that year Lewis was 31, Delilah 28, Nancy 11, James 8, Mary Ann 6, and John L. 2.

The year 1831 held two noteworthy events for the family. In May a third son, Moses Turpin Coffey was born. Also that year Magdelin Cundiff came to live with them. It would seem that Lewis had as yet been unable to complete payment for any land he may have entered and someone had a spelling problem. Magdelin's name has appeared in various references as Magdelen, Magdelia, and Delia. The Morgan Co. Records office has the entry for the U.S. deeding one tract of 40 acres and one of 61 acres to "Magdilla Candep". The description places these joining tracts in Jackson Township on what is now the farm of the heirs of Clarence Clodfelter on Ind. 252 about 5 miles east of Martinsville. It is recorded that Magdelin gave Lewis Coffey authority to "purchase some land" for her which he did for \$127.50. But in Magdelin's name. This apparently led to problems and confusion in the family which arose at a later date.

Little is known of the next five years except: 1. The family greeted another son, Philip B. in April of 1834. 2. In July 1834 Nancy married Robert Jones. 3. In 1836 another baby was born, but the infant Delilah would not remember her grandmother, for Magdelin Cundiff died that year. Her son-in-law, Benjamin Roberts was made administrator of the estate and began settlement procedures. Before settlement could be completed a rather puzzling thing happened.

Robert Jones filed suit on behalf of the minor heirs of "Magdelin Cundiff" versus the "other" heirs of same. Jones named the children of Lewis Coffey as plaintiffs. Delilah's brothers, sisters, and their spouses were named as defendants. Jones' claim was that the administrator was about to divide and sell Magdelin's land. He claimed that the land rightfully belonged to himself and Lewis' children because Magdelin had "often said she would give it to them in return for Lewis helping her on the farm, and because Delilah had not received the full share of her father's estate". Benjamin Roberts and Delilah's brothers protested that "Lewis was hard run and frequently in distress for money to support his family". They also testified that Lewis had full run of the farm rent free and without any accounting which was more than enough to compensate him for any services to his mother-in-law. In addition, Magdelin frequently gave him money, and indeed Delilah had received her full share of her father's estate. Also Lewis had received his division of Magdelin's personal property".

Judge William Wick decided in favor of Robert Jones and the minor children in September of 1838. Roberts requested permission to appeal to the Indiana Supreme Court. Permission was granted providing Roberts furnished bond in the amount of \$250.00. No record has yet been found that the appeal was in fact carried through. Neither has a record been found indicating the disposition of the land. James W. Coffey stated that his mother lived on the "family farm" until her death in 1873. There was no mention in the court records that Lewis or Delilah took part in the family squabble.

THE CLOSING YEARS

Likely by the late thirties, and possibly earlier, Lewis not only farmed and raised stock, but in the spring of each year piloted flat-boats of produce from Martinsville to New Orleans. These sturdy craft were built of native timbers on the banks of White River during the winters. They were usually 14-20 feet wide and 80-100 feet long. As the boats were being built settlers were rounding up their hogs that had foraged freely in the forests, driving them to the slaughter houses on the river. Here the hogs were butchered and packed in white oak barrels for the journey down river. When the spring floods came the pork and any grain surpluses were loaded on the boats. Normally manned by a steersman, oarsman, and pilot they would begin the 1800 mile journey down the White, Wabash, Ohio, and Mississippi to the Crescent City. Reports say on nights when the boats pulled to shore, songs of the boatmen could be heard across the river as they visited from craft to craft. It is possible that Lewis and young Abe Lincoln encountered each other in 1831 when Lincoln made the trip from Illinois. Lincoln talked of walking nearly a mile across moored boats to reach shore at New Orleans.

After weeks of hard labor, avoiding shoals, drifting logs, and other traffic, they would arrive at the destination, sell the cargo, then break up and sell the timbers and start home. One report says the homeward trip could be made for as little as three dollars. This was deck passage on a north bound steamer with the passenger responsible for his own food and shelter.

The traveler often faced more danger during his return than on the down river trip. There were frequently thieves, con men and gamblers who made their livelihoods separating the unsophisticated from their money. If successful, the Hoosier boatmen would leave the paddlewheel at Madison, Indiana. From there it was only 85 miles to walk home. In later years this was cut to 20 miles when the railroad was built from Madison to Franklin.

Other than the testimony in the court case it is not known how the family fared in those years. It did grow numerically with the arrivals of Elizabeth in 1839 and Robert Washington in 1841. James W. was now a young man and had been on some of the river trips with his father. In 1842 he left the river and married Louisa T. the daughter of James and Sarah Norman. Also in 1842, Polly married John Cook, son of Christopher (Christian?) Cook. Lewis was also required to pay the new poll tax of that year. Information for the years 1842-1844 conflict giving us two versions. James W. is quoted as saying in 1887 that "they" (James and Lewis?) abandoned flatboating in 1842 when the cholera epidemic broke out in New Orleans. However the MEMOIRS OF NOAH MAJOR OR THE PIONEERS OF MORGAN COUNTY said that Lewis Coffey, one of the early flatboaters died on the return trip in 1844. No other details of the cause or place of Lewis' death are available. We have speculated that the cause of death could have been from disease or foul play encountered on the trip. Too, if he died "on the return trip", he may be buried somewhere between Martinsville and New Orleans.

James W. Coffey was appointed administrator of Lewis' estate in April 1844. Apparently, in the latter part of 1844, Delilah gave birth to Lewis Martin Coffey. Attorney John Eccles had represented Jones and the Coffey children in the 1838 court case and was an appraiser for the estate in 1844. Yet he unaccountably missed listing the family in 1840 when he was census taker for the U. S. in the area. The census for 1850 and 1860 lists Delilah as the head of household with the then minor children. She has not been located in the 1870 census but was reported to have died on the "family farm" in 1873. Where was the "family farm" referred to by James W.? Some of his descendents believe it was the 101 acre tract purchased by Magdelin. County records, however, show that in 1845 Delilah was the original purchaser from the U.S. of a forty acre tract about three miles from the 101 acres. In 1854 she sold the 40 acre farm to James W. Coffey. In 1857 James sold it to John L. Coffey. John L. sold to brother Robert in 1864. Robert then sold to Moses in 1866 when Robert moved to Illinois.

Many questions about the family remain unanswered. This compiler has found that the whole of the story develops from piecing many small bits of data together. While seeming unrelated, when viewed together they begin to form a picture of the lives, struggles, and successes of the family. To those who find they are interested in the story we send a plea:

PLEASE HELP

Send in any information you may have whether it is from documented sources or just some tale "Aunt Sarah" used to tell. Sometimes it can be traced and proven.

The remaining pages will be devoted to extracts and copies of public records from which the Lewis Coffey story was developed. While much of it could be considered "dry" it can reveal much about the life style of our pioneer ancestors.

THE ESTATE OF LEWIS M. COFFEY

James M. Coffey qualified and gave bond as administrator of the estate June 19, 1844, and August 10, 1844 filed the following inventory of Lewis Coffey's personal goods with the assistance of John Eccles and Redmon Donnell, appraisers:

1 bed and bedding and stead	\$7.00	1 handsaw and auger	\$1.00
1 bed and bedding and stead	7.00	1 looking glass	.12
1 trundle bed and bedding and stead	4.00	1 iron square	.25
1 flax wheel	1.50	1 lot of chains	.75
1 spinning wheel	1.25	1 grindstone	.50
1 candle stand	1.00	1 lot carpenter tools	1.25
1 check reel	.12	1 clevis and open ring	.25
1 trunk	2.00	1 lot bannells	1.00
1 table	1.25	1 cutting box	2.00
1 lot cupboard ware	3.00	1 lot harness	7.00
1 shovel	.50	1 saddle	3.00
2 shovel ploughs	2.00	1 lot of castings	7.00
3 clevises	.75	1 Cary plough	1.25
1 lot hoes	1.75	1 lot singletrees and doubletrees and neck yoke	2.00
3 axes	1.50	1 mowing scythe	.50
1 lot shoe tools and lasts	2.50	1 water bucket	.25
two-horse wagon	15.00	1 black cow with white face and calf	7.00
1 dark red cow with bell	8.00	1 red heifer	2.00
1 red and white steer	3.00	1 pieded heifer	2.00
1 black steer with white face	3.00	1 lot wheat	6.25
1 pieded steer	5.00	1 red cow, white face	6.00
1 red, white backed heifer	7.00	16 head of sheep	.75 12.00
2 two-years old	4.00 8.00		
1 red calf	1.00		

On August 17, 1844 the administrator filed the results of the sale listing the items sold and to whom they were sold. While most items brought pretty much their appraised value one item seemed unusual. The steer that had been appraised at \$5.00 was sold to Delilah Coffey for \$1.00. Is it possible that the auctioneer and the crowd had compassion for the widow with 6 youngsters at home and another on the way or new-born? The remaining buyers included most of the family and neighbors. Such as Christopher Cook, James Coffey, Robert Jones, John Cook Jr. and others.

On February 14th 1846 James Coffey filed his final report showing his outlays for expenses and the payment of \$150.00 to his mother.

SUMMARY OF THE CHILDREN OF LEWIS COFFEY

1. Nancy born (1819) Ky. married Robert Jones in 1834, widowed by 1880, was parent of 13 children and in 1900 lived with son, Allen, on Walnut street in Martinsville.
2. James Wilson (1822-1889) born in Ky. Married Louise Norman in 1842. Father of 7 sons and 1 daughter. Moved from Indiana to Iowa in 1864.
3. Mary Ann (Polly) (1824-1876) born in Ky. Married John Cook and moved to Harrison Co. Missouri about 1850. Mother of ten children.
4. Bettie, assumed born about 1826 in Ky. and died as an infant.
5. John L. (1828-1910) born in Ind. Married Celia J. Norman in 1849 and had 13 children. Was a farmer in Morgan Co. Ind 1850 to 1870. Marion Co. Ind. in 1880, Vernon Co. Mo. 1880-1885, and in Allen Co. Ks. 1885 to 1910. Served in Mexican War 1846-7.
6. Moses Turpin, (1831-1912) born in Ind. Married Lucinda Renner in 1852. reared 8 of 13 children to adulthood. Was a farmer and Justice of the Peace in Morgan Co. Ind. Served in 148th Ind. Regt. in 1865.
7. Philip E. (1834-...?) Married Kathryn Anne Shellans Benjamin in Holt Co. Mo. in 1858. Had 5 daughters, lived in Gage Co. Neb. Territory in 1860 and 1870, in Cass Co. Mo. in 1880.
8. Delilah (1836-1866) married Francis I. Hale, had 5 children and is buried in Harrison Co. Mo.
9. Elizabeth (1839-1863), married James Reedy in 1863. No known children.
10. Robert Washington, (1841-1919), married Margret Adeline Blair 1864. Served in 27th and 33rd Ind. Regts. 1861-1865. Had 5 children and farmed in Cumberland Co. Ill. 1866 to 1919.
11. Lewis Martin (1844-...?) Lived with his mother in 1860 at age 15. Died by 1887. No information on marriage or children if any.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

From: History of Washington County Iowa (1887)

James Wilson Coffey, section 14, Lime Creek Township:

Among the highly respected citizens of Washington County will be found the subject of this sketch. He was born in Pulaski County Kentucky, May 10, 1822, and is the son of Lewis M. and Delilah (Turpin) Coffey, the former a native of Stokes County North Carolina, born in 1798, and the latter of Pulaski County Kentucky, born in 1802. They were the parents of ten children: Nancy, the widow of Robert Jones, resides in Morgan County Indiana; J.W., the subject of this sketch; Mary A., the wife of John Cook; Bettie, deceased; John L., a farmer in Allen County Kansas; Moses T., a farmer in Morgan County Indiana; Philip B., a resident of Cass County Missouri; Delilah, deceased, was the wife of F.M. Hale of Harrison County Missouri; Elizabeth, was the wife of James Reedy, both deceased; R.W., a farmer in Cumberland County Illinois; Lewis M., deceased. The family left Kentucky in the fall of 1827 and moved to Morgan County Indiana where they settled on a farm of 101 acres and made their home until the death of Mr. Coffey, in 1844. He was a flatboat pilot and each year would take a load of produce down the river to New Orleans. Mr. Coffey was an industrious man, a careful manager, and one who possessed the confidence of all his friends. After her husbands death Mrs. Coffey continued to make her old farm in Indiana her home until her death in 1873 at the age of 71 years. She was a kind mother and one who took a great pride in her children.

The early life of our subject was spent upon the farm and in at-

pendence upon the common schools until the age of thirteen. He then went to work upon the public canal, remaining at that for three years, and in the spring of 1838 went with his father to New Orleans, and afterward made one trip each year, which took from three to four months. Between times he worked upon his father's farm until 1842, when the cholera broke out and they abandoned flatboating. Mr. Coffey was married on the 11th of December 1842 to Miss Louisa T. Norman, a native of Tennessee, born June 23, 1826, and the daughter of James and Sarah A. (Harrison) Norman, the former a native of North Carolina, and the latter of Tennessee.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffey are the parents of ten children: Lemuel L.M., born March 6, 1844, at home; John T., born May 23, 1847, was a member of the 27th ind. Infantry, running away from home to defend his country's flag and is now a farmer in Clatsop County, Oregon.; E.F. born January 28, 1850 and James M., September 30, 1853, are farmers in Clatsop County Oregon.; Joseph L., born May 19, 1856, is a clerk in the hardware store of B. W. Nicola & Co. of Wellman Iowa; U. H. born May 30, 1858 is a clerk in a dry goods store in Astoria, Oregon; F. D. born April 22, 1861, and Sarah D., February 11, 1864, are at home; two died in infancy.

After our subject abandoned the river, he turned his attention exclusively to farming, and continued to live in Morgan County, Indiana where his children were all born, for a period of thirty seven years, or until the 9th of October, 1864, when he loaded his family into a wagon and started for Lime Creek Township, Washington County, Iowa. He had made a trip to this county in 1863, at which time he decided Iowa was the place for him to live. After his arrival on October 24th, he bought 148 acres on section 14, Lime Creek Township, where he has since continued to reside. He has bought and sold a number of acres since, but his farm is now in fine condition, and is one of the best fenced in Lime Creek Township, all fenced in 20 acre fields.

At the time of his marriage our subject had no money and was \$43 in debt, but by his own industry and good management, he has acquired a fine farm and enough of this worlds goods to live comfortably in his old age. He has held various township offices, was the Treasurer of the school district, and treasurer of the township. He is held in high esteem by all who know him, and is a man who takes an active part in all political and public affairs. Socially he is a member of the A.F. & A.M. Politically, he is a staunch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party.

From: History of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown Counties, Indiana (1884)

Moses T. Coffey, stock raiser and farmer, is a native of this county, was born May 24, 1831, and is the fifth of the ten children of Lewis and Deillah (Turpin) Coffey, natives of Kentucky, and respectively of English and Irish descent. Lewis Coffey emigrated to this county in 1828, entered land, which he afterward cleared and sold, then engaged in flatboating to New Orleans and died in the spring of 1844. Moses was reared on the paternal farm, and received the rudiments of an education from subscription schools. After the death of his father, the care of the family descended on him, and to which he gave the wages earned by monthly labor. Yet now, as a result of his economy and application, he owns a good farm of fifty acres, containing stock, and being generally well improved. March 11, 1852 he married Miss Lucinda Renner, a native of Ohio, born March 24, 1834, a union which has been prolific in thirteen children, only eight of whom received names. George W.; Mary J.; John D.; Philip L.; Barbara A.;

Eliza C.; Martha P.; and William T. Mr. Coffey is a radical and active Democrat, by which party he was elected Justice of the Peace in 1874, for a four year term. He is a liberal gentleman and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

OBITUARY

The venerable Moses T. Coffey died at the home of his daughter, here, Mrs. James Beechem at 8:30 on Wednesday night, April 10, 1912, at the age of nearly 81 years, of general debility, the immediate cause being an affection of the heart. He leaves several children, all grown and a great number of friends. The children are George, John, Philip, and Willie, the daughters being Mrs. James Beechem, Mrs. Nathan Elkins, Mahalasville, Mrs. Joseph Huntsinger, Anderson, and Miss Nellie Coffey, living on the family homestead, near Mahalasville. The funeral will be held at 3 P. M. today, Friday, at the Baptist church, Mahalasville. Services to be conducted by the Rev. Dilts of this place, with burial in the cemetery adjoining the church.

Mr. Coffey was born on May 24, 1831, his exact age at death being 80 years, 10 months and 14 days. He lived all his life in this county, in the same township except for a short time when his residence was in Washington Township and the interval in which he served in the union army during the civil war.

He was an unassuming country gentleman, never intruding himself on the public, yet social and always pleasant when in contact with his fellow man. Honest and upright in all his dealings, industrious in the pursuit of his own business, hospitable to those who found themselves at any time under his roof, he gained and retained the respect and confidence of all. His services during the war were performed as a member of Co. H, 148th regiment Indiana, and during his whole after-life he had a warm heart and a kindly fellowship for all who were his compatriots in arms. He was a good man, a reputable citizen, a kind parent, a man with whom it was pleasant to meet, and one whose memory will be cherished by all his family, and long recalled by his numerous friends as a warm glow in the firmament of life. Peace to his ashes. (MARTINSVILLE DAILY)

OBITUARY

John L. Coffey was born in Morgan County, Indiana September 21, 1828, departed this life at his home near Moran, Kansas, June 8, 1910, aged 81 years, 8 months, and 18 days. He was married to Celia Jane Norman December 27, 1849. To this union were born thirteen children, eight of whom survive him. The wife and five children having preceded him to the heavenly home. The remaining children live near here except one son in Martinsville, Indiana, one near Bebee, Arkansas, and one daughter near Liberal Kansas.

They moved from their home in Indiana to Vernon Co., Missouri in 1880, thence to Allen County, Kansas in 1885, where they have since resided. Grandpa Coffey as he was familiarly called, was a soldier in the Mexican War having enlisted at the age of nineteen. A private of Captain Daniel Lunderman's Co. G 4th Regt. Indiana Volunteers, who was enrolled June 15, 1847, and honorably discharged from the services at Madison, Indiana July 16, 1848. He was drafted in the services of the Civil War and started to fulfill his place in the great struggle but receiving word on the way that they would not be needed, he returned home.

Mr. Coffey has been a sufferer for many months and bore his afflic-

tion with great patience, never murmuring nor complaining yet he longed to be free from his miseries of life and death came as a sweet release. He believed in the teachings of the Bible and the immortality of the soul. He was of a quiet and unassuming nature, generous and willing to help those in need of his assistance, kind and patient with his family. This won him the love and respect of all who knew him.
(CIGLA DAILY REGISTER)

OBITUARY

Francis I. Hale was born on January 9, 1827, in Wayne Co. Kentucky. When about one year of age, he moved with his parents to Morgan Co. Indiana. In February, 1852 he was united in marriage to Miss Delilian Coffey and to this union seven children were born, three boys and four girls.

In the year 1855, he moved his family to Iowa, and in December of the same year they moved to Harrison Co., Missouri, where he purchased 85 acres of land with improvements, consisting of a good house and other buildings. The house burned down before he moved into it and he put up a log cabin, which served him as a house for many years.

In August 1866, the wife died, leaving her husband and small children, John H. Hale, Alonzo W. Hale, Mary A. Hale, and Martha E. Hale, their other three children having died in infancy. In the year 1867, Mr. Hale was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Hobbs. (F. I. Hale died in 1913. As the remainder of the account does not pertain to the Coffey family it is not included here.)

Findings on ELIZABETH COFFEY REEDY

Elizabeth was born about 1839. She was listed in the 1850 census as age 11 and in the 1860 census the Coffey household included Delilah, age 57; Elizabeth, 21; Robert, 18; and Lewis Martin, 15. Judged by the precedents set by her mother and sisters, Elizabeth was well into the spinster category at 21. Her brothers James, John, and Moses lived nearby as did sister Nancy Jones. Philip was on the western frontier in Nebraska Territory with his new bride.

In April of 1863 Robert was a two year veteran in the 27th Ind. Regt. Delilah(Jr.) and Polly were farmer's wives living in Missouri. Elizabeth, now age 24, married James Reedy, then. There must have been some flaw in the marriage, for on May 12, 1863 the Morgan County Civil Court granted James a divorce from Elizabeth, who did not appear in court to contest the action. That same May James again came to court to request dismissal of the divorce case. It is puzzling as to how a former decision could be dismissed. The mystery continues with the death of Elizabeth later in 1863. Ranous Baker, a young neighboring farmer became the administrator of the estate. There was a sale of her personal goods including a bed and bedding, some dishes and cookware, and livestock. The proceeds amounted to \$70.00. Some of our questions:

1. Why was Baker named administrator instead of one of Elizabeth's older brothers?
2. Why did Elizabeth own household goods and livestock since she presumably lived with her mother?
3. Did she ever live with her husband?

The clerks office records the marriage of James Reedy and Susan Lowe in 1865. In the 1880 census Susan Reedy is shown as a head of household with minor children. James Coffey in his listing of the family mentions only that in 1887 both Elizabeth and James Reedy are dead.

ROBERT WASHINGTON COFFEY

Robert Washington Coffey was born Aug 2, 1841 in Morgan Co. Ind. We would assume his boyhood was the usual for that era, except he was without a father before the age of three. Brother Moses said he was the support of the family after 1844, but we suspect that James and John, who lived nearby, also helped. In September of 1861 the 27th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers was formed at Indianapolis with Robert and many of the Morgan County boys enlisted. During its three years of service it was first attached to Banks' 5th Corps, then later to the Army of the Potomac, and finally to the Army of the Cumberland. It camped at Frederick, Maryland until March of 1862 when it had its first enemy contact in a skirmish at Smithfield, Virginia. This was followed by 27 other engagements including major battles at Antietam, Chancellorsville, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, and Gettysburg. The regiment went into its winter quarters at Tullahoma, Tennessee in the fall of 1863 and during this idleness Robert used his leave to return home and marry Margret Adeline Blair on Mar. 17, 1864.

Returning to his unit Robert found it was now under General Joe Hooker and just entering the Atlanta campaign. In September of 1864 enlistments of the original recruits expired. Some, including Bob and nephew, John Taylor Coffey, joined the 70th Indiana Regiment for Sherman's march to the sea. They then turned north through the Carolinas and at long last the war ended. After the Grand Review in Washington Bob returned home. Arriving in Morgan County he discovered that his wife's brothers had moved to Illinois, and they advised Bob to do the same. In the spring of 1866 Robert and Margret settled in Cumberland County Illinois. Here they lived as a farm family and raised their five children. Margret died in 1900 and Robert in 1918.

(Compiled from a History of Cumberland Co. Illinois and various accounts of units in the Civil War).

MOSES TURPIN COFFEY was satisfied to spend most of his life within a mile or two of his birthplace. One exception was when at the age of 33 he enlisted in the 148th Indiana Regiment. Their principle assignment was the occupation of recently captured Nashville, Tennessee while the brunt of the war moved to other campaigns. The 148th was organized in February 1865 and mustered out in September 1865.

LEWIS COFFEY AND THE EVENING NEWS

(Here the landmarks of Lewis Coffey's life are merged with the current events of that time. Had there been an electronic media then, these would likely have been the prominent stories).

- 1796 John Adams succeeds Washington as President of the U.S.
- 1798 Lewis Coffey is born in Stokes Co. North Carolina.
- U. S. is involved in naval warfare with France.
- 1799 George Washington dies on December 14.
- 1800 Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr tied in the presidential election.
- 1801 Thomas Jefferson elected President by Congress. Tripoli declares war on the U. S.
- 1802 The Military Academy at West Point is opened.
- De'llah Turpin is born in Kentucky.
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase completed with Napoleon, giving the U. S. the Mississippi River and doubling the land area. Cost: \$15,000,000.

- 1804 Thomas Jefferson reelected.
Alexander Hamilton dies in duel with Aaron Burr.
- 1806-1812 Lewis Coffey moves to Kentucky.
- 1808 James Madison elected President after Jefferson and Monroe withdraw as candidates.
- 1809 Abraham Lincoln is born in Kentucky.
- 1810 British blockade New York and impress American seamen.
Madison orders occupation of western Florida as part of Louisiana Purchase.
- 1811 General William Henry Harrison, governor of Indiana Territory leaves the capitol at Vincennes to battle the Indian chief, Tecumseh on the Tippecanoe River near Lafayette, Indiana.
- 1812 War is declared on Great Britain.
- 1812-1815 The U. S. attacks Canada. British invade and burn Washington D. C. Harrison of Indiana and James Winchester of Kentucky battle British and Indians at Detroit. Andy Jackson of Tennessee with General John Coffee and his "Tennessee Dirty Shirts" defeat the British in the Battle of New Orleans.
Peace treaty is signed at Ghent, Belgium ending the war.
- 1816 Indiana admitted as the 19th state.
James Monroe elected President.
- 1818 Andrew Jackson engages in "Seminole Wars" in eastern Florida.
Lewis Coffey and Delilah Turpin are married.
- 1819 Florida ceded to the U. S. by Spain. Financial panic caused by western land speculation, failure of the U. S. Bank, and loss of foreign markets.
Nancy Coffey is born in Kentucky.
- 1820 Monroe reelected unopposed.
- 1822 Construction of the National Road is halted at Wheeling by depression and presidential veto.
James Wilson Coffey is born in Kentucky.
- 1823 Russia claims the Pacific Coast of North America including Alaska and Oregon Territory. Monroe Doctrine is forwarded.
- 1824 Andrew Jackson receives plurality but not a majority of the vote. Runoff in congress gives John Quincy Adams the presidency.
Mary Ann (Polly) Coffey is born in Kentucky.
- 1826 Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both die on July 4th.
Bettie Coffey is born and dies in Kentucky (unproven).
- 1827 Lewis Coffey moves his family to Indiana.
- 1828 Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun elected to office.
John L. Coffey is born in Indiana.
- 1831 Magdelin Turpin Cundiff (Delilah's mother) moves to Indiana.
Moses Turpin Coffey is born in Indiana.
- 1832 Democratic party is formed. Jackson is reelected, president; Martin Van Buren, vice president.
- 1834 Philip B. Coffey is born in Indiana.
- 1836 Martin Van Buren elected. Republic of Texas is formed and the Battle of the Alamo is fought.
Magdelin Cundiff dies and Delilah Coffey is born in Indiana.
- 1839 Elizabeth Coffey is born in Indiana.
- 1840 Harrison and Tyler elected in landslide over Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson.
- 1841 Harrison dies after 31 days in office.
Robert Washington Coffey is born.
- 1844 James Polk elected.
Lewis Martin Coffey is born in Indiana.
Lewis M. Coffey dies at age 45.

FAMILY DATA ON THE CHILDREN OF LEWIS M. COFFEY

Child 1. Nancy (1819-19??) married Robert Jones (1810-18??)

Their children:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Male child (1834/40-????) | 7. Jonathan (1853-??) |
| 2. Mary J. (1843-??) | 8. Calvin (1857-??) |
| 3. Nancy C. (1846-??) | 9. (Robert?) Allen (1860-??) |
| 4. Catherine (1847-??) | 10. Ellsworth (1863-??) |
| 5. Eliza M. (1849-??) | 11. David (1865-??) |
| 6. James (1852-??) | 12. William (1865-??) |

Child 2. James Wilson (1822-1887) married Louisa Norman (1826-??)

Their children:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Lemuel Lewis (1844-1936) | 5. Joseph Lane (1856-1927) |
| 2. John Taylor (1847-1926) | 6. Victor Hugo (1858-1953) |
| 3. Benj. Franklin (1849-1928) | 7. Paschal Davis (1861-1930) |
| 4. James Norman (1854-????) | 8. Sarah Delilah (1864-1897) |

Child 3. Mary Ann (Polly) (1824-1876) married John P. Cook (1823-1888)

Their children:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Catherine (1843-????) | 7. William (1859-????) |
| 2. Nancy A. | 8. Jacob (1859-????) |
| 3. John L. (1849-????) | 9. George (1862-????) |
| 4. Philip (1851-????) | 10. James (1866-????) |
| 5. Christopher (1852-1940) | 11. Marietta (1869-????) |
| 6. Delilah (1855-????) | |

Child 4. Bettie (1826-1826 estimated)

Child 5. John L. (1828-1910) married Celia Jane Norman (1833-????)

Their children:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Emory (1851-????) | 7. Lewis (1863-????) |
| 2. William (1852-1883) | 8. Hugh (1864-????) |
| 3. Isabella (1855-????) | 9. Sarah (1868-????) |
| 4. (Eleanor/Ellen) (1857-????) | 10. Emma (1871-????) |
| 5. Joseph D. (1859-????) | 11. Melbourne F. (1876-1960) |
| 6. (James/Chambers) (1861-????) | 12,13 Unknown |

Child 6. Moses Turpin (1831-1912) married Lucinda Renner (1834-1910)

Their children:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. George W. (1854-1913) | 5. Barbara (1863-1914) |
| 2. Mary Jane (1856-1935) | 6. Eliza Katherine (1866-1923) |
| 3. John D. (1859-1912) | 7. Martha (Nellie) (1869-1951) |
| 4. Philip Lewis (1861-1935) | 8. William (Willie) (1873-1943) |

Child 7. Philip B. (1834-??) married Anne Shellers Benjamin (1835-??)

Their children:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Sarah (1860-????) | 4. Nora (1871-????) |
| 2. Mary (1862-????) | 5. Gabrielle (1876-????) |
| 3. (Hattie/Harry) (1869-????) | |

Child 8. Delilah (1836-1866) married Francis I. Hale (1827-1913)

Their children:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mary A. (1856-????) | 4. Francis W. (1864-1865) |
| 2. Alonzo W. (1858-????) | 5. Martha E. (1866-????) |
| 3. John H. (1861-????) | 6,7 (died as infants) |

Child 9. Elizabeth (1839-1863) married James Reedy
 No known children

Child 10. Robert Washington (1841-1918) md. Margaret A. Blair
 (1845-1900)

Their children:

1. Samuel	(1866-????)	4. Oscar	(1871-????)
2. Parker	(1868-1880)	5. Margaret A.	(1869-1960)
3. Lewis Alexander	(1870-????)		

Child 11. Lewis Martin (1844-????)

Nothing known after age 15 except he died before 1887.

PLEASE USE THE REMAINING SPACE FOR YOUR OWN NOTES

A NOTE TO THE READER

We apologize for some of the incomplete data. We have seen some cases where people have worked for years on their family story with the idea of publishing a book when it was complete. As this type of project is almost never "complete" the information was never published and forever lost. We are trying to avoid this by distributing the story as widely as possible, and soliciting participation by all interested persons.

There are many more interesting stories to tell that do not appear in this pamphlet:

A complete account of the service and battles of the 4th Indiana Regiment of the Mexican War 1847/8 is available. John L. Coffey served in this unit.

A grandson of John L. received the Andrew Carnegie Heroes medal after he died saving a drowning friend in 1910.

A granddaughter of Moses T. was a lifelong teacher and instrumental in formulating remedial reading methods in the Kansas educational systems.

We're sure there are others.

A great deal more is known about many families down to present generations. As of 1983 we know of at least one living descendant of Robert W. and also one of Delilah (Coffey) Hale's family. Nothing is known of living members of the Philip B. or the Lewis Martin Coffey families. Grandsons of John L. visited with some of the Moses T. family in the 1930's. All that the latter could recall was that a Russell and Ellis Coffey claimed that they were cousins from Chicago. If Russell and Ellis are alive today they are in their 90's.

This paper was prepared on a computer file and copies are available on request at the cost of printing and mailing. We hope that our hundreds of cousins will all get to see the story and help fill in the blanks that still exist.

Leonard N. Coffey

1983

865 East Silver
Tucson, Arizona
85719

21 April 1991

Donna Coffey
38 Outer Drive
Martinsville, Indiana
46151

COPY

Dear Donna:

Yes, I am glad to report that I have a copy of Leonard's Lewis Coffey Story and am glad that I could make a copy for you as well as for Bonnie Culley. Your copy is enclosed and I am mailing the other copy to Bonnie. Also, I am giving a copy to my friend Ted Turpin, here in Tucson. He may be on the family tree, too.

It occurs to me that as members of the Lewis Coffey/^{family} branched out into other midwestern states from Indiana to Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas their stories could be written for the Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse. I will endeavor to submit the story about the Iowa branch and the sub-branch that went to Oregon from Iowa.

It was good hearing from you. Increasingly I value Leonard Coffey's interest in family history and am grateful that he started the Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse and the annual Coffee/Coffey Conventions.

We would love to be attending this year, especially in Boone, North Carolina, but I am still recuperating from a heart attack and quadruple by-pass surgery. I still have six more weeks of cardiac rehabilitation at the hospital. I am doing fine and am off all medication except one baby aspirin a day.

We are planning to go back to our granddaughter's graduation from Ellsworth, Maine, High School on June 7th.

Along with the copy of Leonard's Lewis Coffey Story, I am mailing a copy of this letter to Bonnie.

Bess sends her best along with mine.

Fran/Coffey
Fran

cc: Bonnie Culley

INDIANA

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL

CHARLES BLANCHARD, EDITOR.

F.A. BATTEY & CO., PUBLISHERS, Chicago
1884

MOSES T. COFFEY

MOSES T. COFFEY, stock-raiser and farmer, is a native of this county, was born May 24, 1831, and is the fifth of the ten children of Lewis and Delilah (Turpin) Coffey, natives of Kentucky, and respectively of English and Irish descent. Lewis Coffey emigrated to this county in 1828; entered land, which he afterward cleared and sold, then engaged in flat-boating to New Orleans and died in the spring of 1844. Moses was reared on the paternal farm, and received the rudiments of an education from subscription schools. After the death of his father, the care of the family descended upon him, and to which he gave the wages earned by monthly labor; yet now, as a result of his economy and application, he owns a good farm of fifty acres, containing stock, and being generally well improved. March 11, 1852, he married Miss Lucinda Renner, a native of Ohio, born March 24, 1834, a union which has been prolific in thirteen children, only eight of whom received names -- George W., Mary J., John D., Philip L., Barbara A., Eliza C., Martha P. and William T. Mr. Coffey is a radical and active Democrat, by which party he was elected Justice of the Peace in 1874, for a term of four years. He is a liberal gentleman and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.