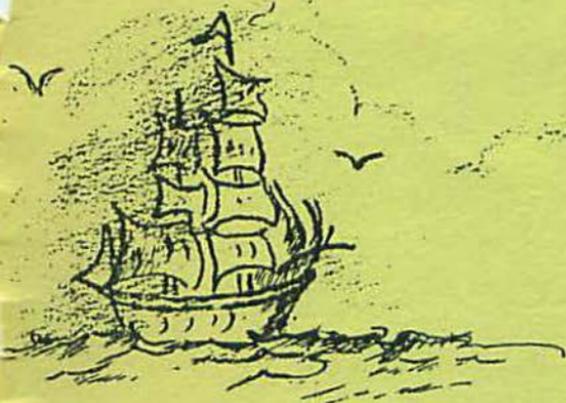




Bonnie R. Culley
1416 Green Berry Rd.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

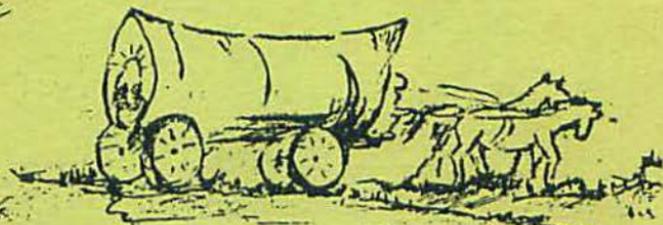
1. Edward
2. John
3. James Thomas



The
Coffee Clan
from 1690

By Frank R Moore

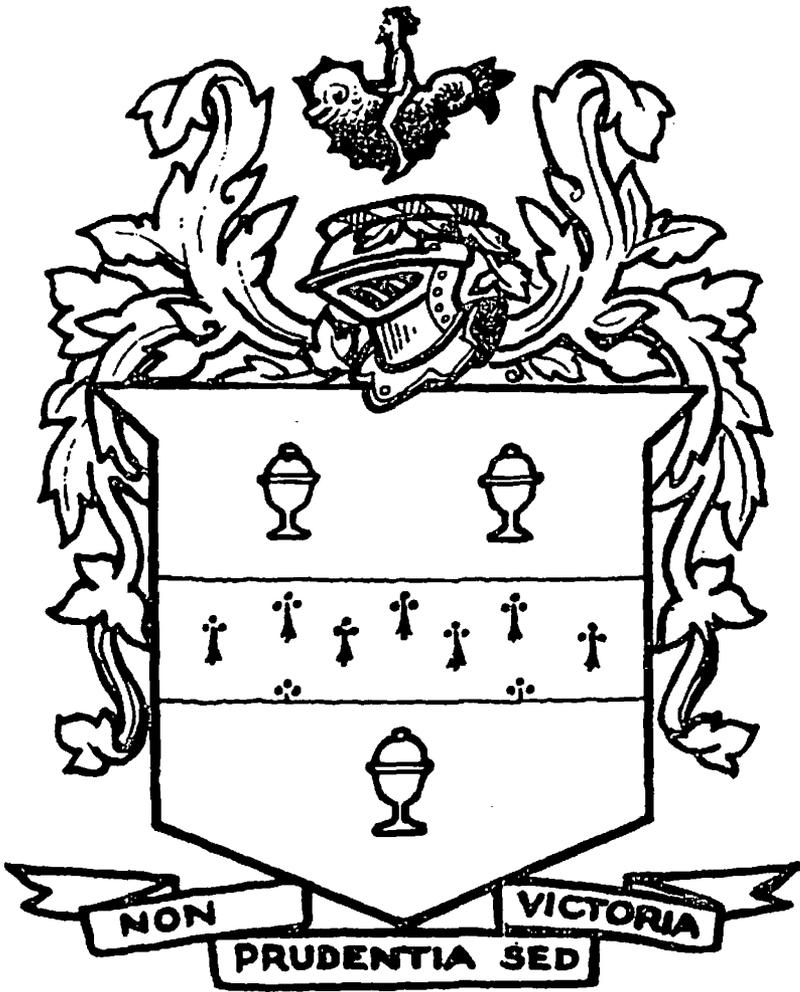
Illustrated by
Blanche R. Moore
Stromberg Press



CF. 53



Sincerely,
Frank R. Moore



COFFEY

*The Coffey Family Coat of Arms.
reproduced by Catherine M. Richter*

Dear Cousins:

Since I am one of the eldest of the remaining cousins of the Coffey clan and as I probably have more first hand information handed down to me by my Mother, Irena Coffey Moore, by Uncle Ebbie and by our Grand-mother Coffey, I feel it is important to pass this information on to the on-coming generations of the family, since our grand-parents played such an important role in the development of the WEST, which is the last real frontier of our country, obviously it will interest them.

Also I have spent much time and research looking up records, back as far as seven generations and feel that the facts stated are as authentic as can be determined. The anecdotes and little stories related are a mere hint of the rugged experiences our forebears had who were a cultured people in a raw land.

There has been brought to my attention that a certain Asberry Coffey, who was a third cousin of our grandfather, Colonel James A. Coffey, made claim to the founding of Coffeyville. This is not true and rather absurd as my Mother and our Grand-mother as well as your mothers, "the Coffey girls" and Uncle Ebbie were right there and lived in the first fine (walnut) house in Coffeyville, and the records verify this, as you can see.

In addition, I have written at some length about our Grand-mother's life which deserves more attention than given, as her life is a story all its own, the rugged little pioneer woman who reared a large and fine family almost alone under the most rugged circumstances, for as you will see our Grand-father was so busy developing the wild country, fending for the Indians etc., he had little time to rear children.

As you perhaps noted that I am not a professional writer, but I have enjoyed the research and work during the spare time I have had for the past two years, and I hope you have gained an appreciation of our fine pioneer heritage.

I wish to express my appreciation for the encouragement and help given me by -

my Wife, Mrs. Blanche B. Moore
my Sister, Catherine Moore Richter
my Cousin, Mrs. Louise Emerson Hughes

Sincerely yours,

FRANK R. MOORE

FRANK R. MOORE
432 HOLLY STREET
LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92651
September 1st, 1969

494-6657

To my cousins -- grand-children of Colonel James A. Coffey
and Louisa Coffey: --

Mrs. Lucille Mathaway, P.O. Box 459, Nogales, Ariz.
Mr. John McIntire, Patagonia, Ariz.
Mrs. Louise Hickok, 21515 Placentia Canyon Rd., Newhall, Calif.
Mr. Oscar Coffey, Hotchkiss, Colorado
Mrs. Clara Gilbert, Austin, Colorado
Mrs. Mary Weaver, 2180 E. Center Ave., Denver, Colorado
Mrs. Belle Parsons, 515 Kibckah Ave., Pawhuska, Okla.
Mr. Eben Soderstrom, Pawhuska, Oklahoma
Mr. Carl Soderstrom, Pawhuska, Oklahoma
Mr. Waldo Emerson, 1158 Rood Ave., Grand Junction, Colo.
Mrs. Louise Emerson Hughes, 1637 Orchard Dr., Salt Lake City, Utah
Mr. George Emerson, 1535 A White Ave., Grand Junction, Colo.
Mr. aunt M. Murdock, 2910 Country Club Dr., Colorado Springs, Colo.
Mr. Jesse Murdock, 904 N. 7th, Garden City, Kansas
Mrs. Amy Moore, 26 Hawthorne Street, Medford, Oregon
Mr. Thomas Murdock, Jr., P.O. Box 394, Mannford, Oklahoma
Mrs. Blanche Murdock Moore, 432 Holly Street, Laguna Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Catherine Moore Richter, 401 Patrician Way, Pasadena, Calif.

THE COFFEYS CAME FROM IRELAND

There has always been much interest and some speculation in our family about the first Coffeys to come to America and whether from Scotland or Ireland. I am fortunate to have a letter my mother kept that was written by our great grand-father, Rev. Achilles Coffey to "his children",^① in which he states ----

"The Coffey portion of the family emigrated from Ireland and I have frequently heard it said by older members of the connection that there were two brothers from Ireland who came to America and raised eleven sons apiece from which the numerous stock sprung."

The biography^② of our grand-father, Col. James A. Coffey, states ----

"He is descended from one of three brothers who immigrated from Scotland and settled in America early in the eighteenth century. They settled in Virginia and in the Old Dominion, and in the Old Dominion several generations have been born and reared."

The best of historians sometimes do not agree, but Achilles being the eldest of the two and so in closer touch with the older generation, states definitely that his forbears came from Ireland and there is a wealth of authentic evidence to that effect.

While collecting this material, I was naturally interested in knowing something of the Irish and found the history of Ireland most interesting, and so I am indulging in a brief account of what I learned.

The Irish are almost entirely of Celtic origin. The Celts roamed over mid-Europe during the third and fourth centuries B.C., and were crowded out by other barbaric tribes from the east, and some of the Celts permanently located on the isolated island which became Ireland. The soil of Ireland was fertile and the Celts prospered. The country was not bothered by intruders for a long time.

While the Romans occupied England, the Celts absorbed some of their culture and also Christianity. The patron saint, Saint Paterick built churches and monasteries.

When the civilized world was over-run by the Teutonic tribes from the north, there resulted a long period known as "The Dark Ages." Intellectuals from all over found a haven in the isolated island, Ireland, and thus Roman culture and Christianity were preserved. During the period of reconstruction, missionary work by the Irish monks helped an upset world find its way.

The unmolested Irish experienced normal living for a long time, but about the year 800 A.D., Norseman pirates, also known as Danes, invaded peaceful Ireland. They looted the monasteries and the churches of their wealth, robbed the people and usurped the government.

1. 112 Page 67

2. 113 Page 69

"Family historians state that the family traces its descent from one Cobthach or Cobthaidh Fionn (meaning the "fairhaired Victor"), who was living in County Cork, Ireland, about the beginning of the eighth century A.D."

This is quoted from a research THE NAME AND FAMILY OF COFFEY OR COFFEE¹ sent to me by Mr. John L. Coffey of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. So very probably this "Cobthach or Cobthaidh Fion 'the fairhaired Victor'" was not a native Celt but was one of the Norsemen pirates.

Quoting further from the above research ----

"The name COFFEY or COFFEE is of Irish origin and was originally O'Cobthaidh or O'Coffey, meaning 'of the family of Cobthaidh', Cobthaidh itself being derived from the Irish Cobthach, meaning 'Victorious.' It is found in ancient records in the various spelling of O'Cobthaidh, O'Cobthalth, O'Cowhig, O'Cobthach, O'Caughy, O'Coffey, Caughy, Coffey, Coffy and Coffey, of which the form last mentioned is the most generally accepted in America today, while several of the others are also frequently used."

The research then names fifty-one generations, descendants of the one 'Cobthach' father to son who carried on the family name for a period of about nine hundred years, the last mentioned were among the first emigrants who came to America.

A copy of THE NAME OF COFFEY OR COFFEE is in the bibliography

It is very probable that the fairhaired Norseman pirate, Cobthach helped himself to some rich farm land in County Cork and abducted an Irish maid and raised a family and became the first member of the Coffey family to be identified.

The Norsemen and the native Irish had a battle, known as the Battle of Clontarf, the year 1000 A.D. and the Irish subdued the Norsemen and became the rulers. But not long after that, King Henry II of England induced the exhausted Irish to accept his protection and he assumed the title, Lord of Ireland. He had members of his court to govern the country and they levied heavy taxes to supplement the living of the Lords and Ladies of England. The Irish were forced to hard labor and were more than ready to leave the country as soon as they had the opportunity.

THE FIRST COFFEY TO COME TO AMERICA 1690

Early in the seventeenth century, Spain and France claimed most of the North American continent, and so to compete for territory in the new world, England granted a charter to the London Company to colonize the Dominion of Virginia - we would say today - subdivide. To the settler who had the cost of the voyage was given fifty acres for every member of his family and for every servant. Some of the Coffeys were among the first of that vast influx of emigrants from the Old World to come to the land of opportunity.

Again quoting from John L. Coffey's photostat ----

"In the latter part of the seventeenth century, one Coffey (Christian name unknown) came from Ireland to Essex County, Va., where he was probably the father of John, Elizabeth, Patsy, Anister and Edward."

Dr. Laurence H. Coffey of Lenoir, North Carolina wrote a booklet - COFFEY FAMILY EARLY HISTORY, and the information agrees with that given in John L. Coffey's photostat ⁽¹⁾----

"According to the best information available, the father of John Coffey --- originally went from Ireland to Liverpool then to Essex County, Virginia, about the year 1690."

The next page of Dr. Coffey's booklet gives the names of the children of the 'first' Coffey --- John, Elizabeth, Patsy, Anister and Edward, which agrees with John L. Coffey's photostat.

The son John and his wife Jane and their son James came to America also. Dr. Laurence H. Coffey made a search of the county records of Virginia and related what he found ⁽²⁾----

"---- in Deed Book dated July 15th, 1745 is recorded; John Coffey and wife Jane Coffey of Spotsylvania County Virginia sold ---- to Silvanus Allen of Essex County, Va., in consideration of 25 pounds current money ---- 100 acres."

"---- in Deed Book 24, Page 130, dated June 15th, 1747, John Coffey and wife Jane Coffey of Spotsylvania County Virginia, to John Garrett of Essex County, Virginia 100 acres more or less in Essex County, Virginia, consideration thirty pounds."

"As John Coffey made his will on March 31st, 1774, and his executors were qualified in Albemarle County court March 1775, he evidently died in January, or February 1775."

The information given by both John L. Coffey and Dr. L. H. Coffey ⁽²⁾ agree that John Coffey and wife Jane Graves Coffey had eight children ---- JAMES, Edward, THOMAS, Reuben, Benjamin, William, Elizabeth and Winnefred.

The two children, THOMAS and JAMES were the two brothers our great grand-father Rev. Achilles Coffey wrote about ----

"I frequently heard it said by the old members of the the connection that there were two brothers who came to America and raised eleven sons apiece from which the numerous stock sprung, but I cannot give their names, the time of their arrival or where they located." ⁽³⁾

In his booklet, Dr. Coffey names the eleven children of the brother THOMAS and four of them were girls; and in the COFFEY - CLEVELAND papers, you will find in the bibliography names the eleven children of JAMES, two of them were girls with due respect to Rev. Achilles Coffey whose source of information was limited. Dr. Coffey's booklet concerns mostly about the THOMAS COFFEY family, he being a descendent of THOMAS. ⁽⁴⁾

THE 'FIRST' JAMES COFFEY, 1726-1813

Thus far we have identified three members of our "Coffey Family Tree" -- (1) Coffey (Christian name unknown), (2) his son, John and John's son, JAMES.

1. 102 Page 44
2. 103 Page 47
3. 112 Page 67
4. 103 Page 47

↑ Errors
See James B Coffey,
Vol II: Anister

This son, JAMES, was our great great great grand-father. He had a grand son by the name of JAMES who was our grand-father, Colonel James A. Coffey. So to differentiate between the three, we list them as the 'first' JAMES, the 'second' JAMES, and the 'third' JAMES.

The 'first' JAMES was born in Ireland the year 1726. He was twenty years old when he married ELIZABETH CLEVELAND in Prince Edward County, Virginia; ① and as previously stated they had eleven children ---- John, James, ACHILLES, Ambrose, Reuben, Eli, Joël, Lewis who married Bedant Moore, Elizabeth, Betsy who married Martin Durham, and Rice. ② The family lived in Albemarle County, Va., in the year 1759 then five years later they moved to Amhurst County, Va., then ten years later they moved to Wilkes County, North Carolina. About this time four brothers of the 'first' JAMES moved to nearby Burke County and one of them was THOMAS, two of whose sons married nieces of Daniel Boons. ③

The 'first' JAMES was a Baptist minister ④ and also did some farming. Dr. Coffey found a county record that JAMES sold 300 acres while living in North Carolina. ⑤

The 'first' James saw service in the American Revolution. ⑥ I show a copy of a letter sent to Mrs. Margaret Price, genealogical librarian of the North Carolina State Library, and included is a DAR Patriot Index. According to that, JAMES was not a soldier, but did "PS", patriotic service which constitutes eligibility for DAR membership. This index shows that two of the sons of the 'first' JAMES also served. Not included was the son, Eli and the son-in-law Martin Durham. You will note in the index there was a Joshua Coffey of another Coffey family; he was a captain in the Continental Army and was the father of General John Coffey.

Mrs. Price suggested in her letter that I write the Department of Archives and History of the State of North Carolina which I did. They sent a Xerox copy of an original voucher #4505 which shows that JAMES COFFEY received Two Pounds and Fourteen Shillings for military service. This department sent also copies of three payments to JAMES COFFEY as recorded in their file --- REVOLUTION Army Accounts, copies of which I include. ⑦

It is evident that JAMES COFFEY was active in both the military and the non-military service. He probably did whatever the occasion demanded. While not carrying a gun he no doubt was a substitute doctor, and to those spiritually in need, he gave comfort and help. He passed on during the year 1813 while living in Wilkes County. He was 87 years old.

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|------------------|------------------|
| 1. 107 Page 58 | 5. 103-C Page 49 |
| 2. 108 Page 60 | 6. 105 Page 51 |
| 3. 103-B Page 48 | 7. 103-C Page 49 |
| 4. 108 Page 60 | |

ELIZABETH CLEVELAND COFFEY, 1728-1828

What I learned about ELIZABETH CLEVELAND COFFEY was related in Rev. Achilles Coffey's letter, and he told what he heard from the "old members of the connection." ----

"My great grand-mother Coffey lived to the advanced age of one hundred twelve as you will see in my history. She was a sister of Col. Cleavian of the Revolutionary War." ①

Further information was given in a letter from Mr. Robert W. McBride which states that ELIZABETH CLEVELAND COFFEY was born the year 1728 and that she passed on the year 1828, ② so she lived just one hundred years. The COFFEY - CLEVELAND papers sent to me by Mr. McBride states that she was an aunt to Colonel Benjamin Cleveland.

ELIZABETH CLEVELAND COFFEY was of goodly heritage also, told about in the COFFEY - CLEVELAND papers, page 6 ----

"ELIZABETH CLEVELAND was doubtless daughter of Alexander Cleveland who was son of Alexander (2) Cleveland, who was a son of Alexander (1) Cleveland by Lady Axminster acc. to tradition whose given name was doubtless Elizabeth." ③

Accordingly, Lord Axminster was ELIZABETH'S great great grand-father. The COFFEY - CLEVELAND papers are replete with interesting tidbits of folklore, there being reference to a Cromwell-Lady Cleveland romance, and there are other items of interest.

Many of the early settlers of Virginia became very wealthy, and it was not long until some of them owned about all of the tillable land and they employed Negro slaves and the two class system was maintained, the very rich and the very poor, known as the common people. The younger generations could not compete with the landed gentry so they had to look elsewhere to make a living.

At about this time Spain and France were contesting for the country south of Virginia, so England settled the problem by organizing there the colonies of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Cleveland families were early settlers in south western North Carolina, and JAMES and ELIZABETH located in the north western part of the Carolinas.

REUBEN COFFEY

The Colonists in North America did not like the tax imposed by their English rulers and the American Revolution resulted. During the early part of the war, General Washington check-mated the British Army up north, so then General Cornwallis tried for a decision in the Carolinas. He chased the Colonial Army up and down the country and at King's Mountain, Col. Ben Cleveland's regiment of frontiersmen captured a detachment of British and Tories. This was one of the decisive engagements of the war. This battle occurred on the 7th of October, 1780, and Reuben Coffey, son of 'first' JAMES, volunteered under Capt. Guest in Wilkes County, "for as long as the country needed his service." He was in service twelve months and was discharged in the fall of 1781. ④

About forty years later, Reuben was residing in Wayne County, Kentucky, and became aware that Congress had passed a law granting pensions to veterans of the Revolution. So Reuben, on August 28th, 1832, filed a petition in the County Court of Wayne County, Kentucky, requesting that he be granted a pension. The National Department of Archives and Record Service of Washington, D.C., sent me a Xerox copy of this original filing which is included in the bibliography. I have reproduced only that part of the record that is pertinent to this story, and I noted that the clerk of the court did not have a seal, which was designated on an affidavit with a circle. The historical value of this original document is to be appreciated.

King's Mountain is in South Carolina, just across the line from Cleveland County, North Carolina. Evidentially there was much fighting where the Coffey and Cleveland families lived and no doubt members of both families were engaged in the battle.

In his testimony Reuben relates that his detail "hung ten Tories." ① wonder if his father, the Reverend JAMES COFFEY officiated at the burial.

GREAT GREAT GREAT GRAND-FATHER ACHILLES COFFEY

While he was yet a small boy, Rev. Achilles Coffey was interested in learning something about the early members of the family, and what the "old members of the connection" could tell him was very little, as their separation from their families on the coast was almost complete when they crossed the Appalachian barrier. All that Achilles knew was reported in his letter ①----

"My grand-father died about one hundred years ago in North Carolina; his name was Achilles Coffey. Governor Cullom the present governor of Illinois and I are grand-sons of brothers, he of LEWIS and I of ACHILLES COFFEY."

It being that General John Coffey was related to our branch of the family, I wrote the Tennessee Historical Society and their secretary Mr. Robert H. McBride, stated in his reply, ② that he found no proof that these Coffeys were related; but on further search, in the Tennessee State Library, he located the Coffey-Cleveland papers ③ a collection of letters from members of both families, which showed that ACHILLES and LEWIS were children of JAMES COFFEY who had eleven children, and as according to Rev. Achilles Coffey's letter, he proved to be one of the "two brothers who came from Ireland and had eleven sons(?) apiece." This find was most remarkable, as they were two of the two and a half million people living in English America at that time, and nineteen out of twenty were farmers. This find by Mr. McBride made my search complete and the story possible.

Rev. Achilles Coffey's letter ① related that his grand-father, ACHILLES COFFEY married ELON WAID, and according to Mr. John L. Coffey's chart, ④ they had four sons ---- Bailey, Hezikiah, John W. and the fourth son was JAMES; he was born the year 1773, ⑤ and we will designate him the 'second' JAMES. He was our great great grand-father.

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2. 107 Page 57

3. 108 Page 61

4. 104 Page 50

5. 113 Page 69

THE 'SECOND' JAMES COFFEY, 1773-1853

While the Colonists were under British rule, they were forbidden to make new settlements west of the Appalachians, wanting no trouble with the Indians and wishing to preserve the fur trade till a time to suit themselves. But, anyway, Daniel Boone did establish his fort at Boonesboro, Kentucky during the year 1775. After the Colonists had gained their independence, some of the first to take up Boone's trail were the Coffeys.

The 'second' JAMES was about five years old when his father died, and he was about ten years old when he joined up with the first families to cross the mountains. No doubt this orphan was thrilled by stories of Indian fights, hunting and fishing the mountain streams and no doubt would not be left behind.

All of the country west of the mountains was claimed by the Indians. There was mountain after mountain and all were heavily timbered. Once on their way, these first settlers knew there was no turning back and that they must depend on their own resourcefulness to survive. They would have to kill game for food and use skins for clothing, and from time to time they did some farming, and built a cabin and prepared for the winter to come.

It took these families a long time to make their way through this uncharted country. When they reached Boonesboro, young JAMES was a match for any one with the axe or the gun.

These first families wrested the country between the Ohio and the Tennessee Rivers from the Indians at great cost of life, and there was much suffering. Early trappers told about the bluegrass country of Kentucky with lovely meadows and the hunting was good, and it was not long until more settlers were coming; some by the Wilderness Road and the Cumberland Gap and some rafted down the Ohio River. Living conditions improved and social events were followed by many marriages.

One of the first to raft down the Ohio was Thomas Lane^① and his family, they came from the state of New York, and the 'second' JAMES married one of the daughters. While living in Wayne County, Kentucky, they had six sons^② ---- Lewis, Eli, John, Tommie, James Wesley and then there was ACHILLES who we know as our great grand-father, Elder ACHILLES COFFEY; he was born July 10th, 1806.^③ Also born in Kentucky about the same time, Abraham Lincoln, the year 1809, and Jefferson Davis, the year 1808.

Many relatives of the 'second' JAMES came from North Carolina and settled in Wayne County, Kentucky. One was a Reuben Coffey who applied for pension for service in the Revolution, and then there was uncle Lewis Coffey, and Martin Durham who testified in his behalf. This Uncle Lewis and his wife, Bedant, were the grand-parents of Shelby Moore Cullum^④ who was also born

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2. 104 Page 50

3. 113 Page 69

4. 112-8 Page 68
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in Wayne County and was raised in Illinois. He held public office for fifty years as United States Senator and governor of Illinois. Another uncle of the 'second' JAMES was Eli Coffey. He and his son, Asberry Madison Coffey came to Wayne County the year 1814. It was Asberry who caused much controversy in our family by accepting the claim that Coffeyville, Kansas "was named for him."^① The rascal.

Kentucky and Tennessee were the first two states to be admitted to the original thirteen states. Here sons and daughters of the east developed a new type of American and there was no class distinction. Together they faced the hardship and danger of pioneer living. Kentucky and Tennessee soon became crowded, and some of the more adventuresome pioneers built cabins across the river in the Indian country and the Indians killed many of them. Then it seemed a matter of necessity, "Mad" Anthony Wayne after a battle took some of the country north of the Ohio River away from the Indians, then later William Henry Harrison cleared the rest of the country north of the river and drove the Indians across the Mississippi. General Andrew Jackson and his lieutenant, General John Coffey, cleared all of the Indians out of the country south of the Tennessee river, and free enterprise was on its way, north and south of the two rivers.

The Davis family was among the first to move to the State of Mississippi. They were among those who owned big plantations, using slave labor; they lived in luxury and ran the government to suit themselves. The poor whites were left to their own resources.

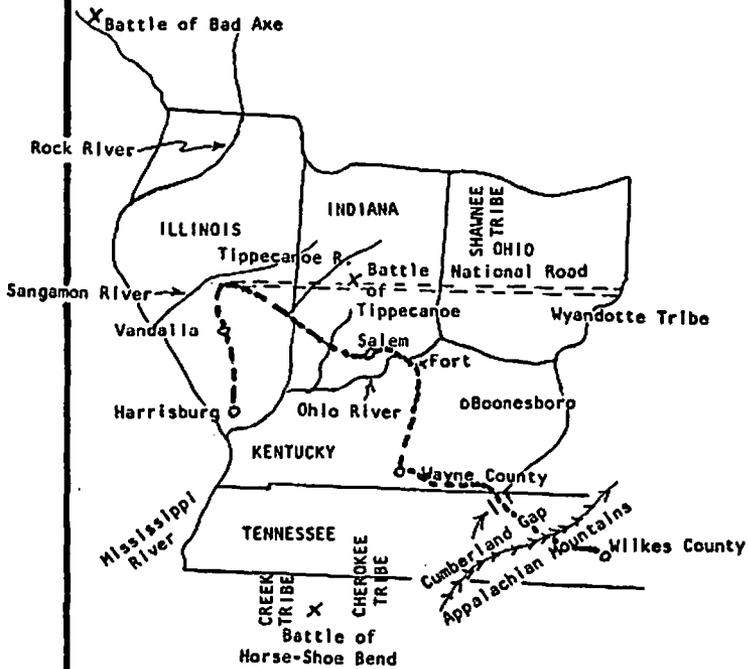
The Lincolns and the Coffeys moved to the undeveloped country north of the Ohio River. They were independent people living in a raw land, depending on their own resources; thus there developed two types of Americans, the Southerners who maintained class distinction -- the very rich and the very poor; and the Westerners who developed a new progressive experiment in government where all would have equal opportunity and equal rights.

The War of 1812 was hardly over when the 'second' JAMES ferried his family across the Ohio^② and cleared some land for a small farm and he and the boys built a cabin. He located near a fort, where the present city of Madison, Indiana now is. There were some stray Indians around, but JAMES was used to that situation. Here he was his own boss and no neighbors nearby who would spoil his hunting. He did some business with flat-boats on their way down stream to New Orleans. He traded hickory logs and furs for a wagon and some iron pots and other manufactured goods made at Pittsburg. But the wild turkeys ate the garden, the deer ravaged the corn patch, the forest was damp and much sickness. The un-invited Indians were a nuisance, so after a stay of a year, the family moved west to Washington County, near the village of Salem.

1. 108 Page 60

2. 111 Page 66

THE 'SECOND' JAMES COFFEY'S LIFE JOURNEY, 1773-1853



THE BATTLE OF 'BAD AXE' CLIMAXED THE BLACK HAWK WAR

THE BATTLE OF HORSE-SHOE BEND; GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON
and GENERAL JOHN COFFEY ANNIHILATED THE CREEK TRIBE

President Jefferson was the first in history to establish surveys so now properties could be definitely located and transfers filed. After a stay of three years, JAMES sold his improved farm near Salem at a profit, and in the fall of 1817, he loaded the family onto the wagon and went back to Wayne County, Kentucky to visit relatives, and after a short time he went to Alabama. ① He could not compete with slave labor and the available farm land was very poor, so after a stay of two years he decided to move to Illinois. He learned that the government was building a highway through the forest country of Indiana, and thus raise money by selling public land. The National Highway was to start from Baltimore, Maryland and the destination was St. Louis, Missouri.

It took him several months to make his way through the undeveloped country of Illinois and in the fall of 1820, he took up a claim near the Sangamon River. The Indians gave the river its name -- It meant "plenty to eat." After two years he learned that the highway would be used for a railroad, The Baltimore and Ohio. It would take the railroad a long time to get that far, and the stray Indians were not friendly, so the family loaded up the wagon and moved to Saline County, Illinois "which was very much a wilderness country." ② Here, JAMES farmed till he moved to Hamilton County, Illinois where he passed on during the year 1853, while living at the village of Harrisburg. ③ He was then eighty years old.

The 'second' JAMES and Thomas Lincoln were pathfinders for the settlers that soon followed. For them, it was a challenge to wrest a living from nature's vast supply. Both were married at about the same time, and here some of their children were born.

THE LINCOLN FAMILY

At the time the Coffeys were living near the village of Salem, Indiana, the Thomas Lincoln family was located on a little farm on Pigeon Creek, about thirty miles further west. Then, the Coffeys later moved to near Sangamon River, Illinois, during the year 1820, and the Lincolns ten years later located on the same river about where the city of Decatur now is. Here Abraham helped his father to clear some land and build a cabin and then he started out for himself at the village of New Salem. After that, Thomas moved to southern Illinois as had been done by the 'second' JAMES.

REV. ACHILLES COFFEY, 1806-1883

The 'second' JAMES son, who we will call the 'second' ACHILLES, was a self-taught preacher; like his contemporary Abraham Lincoln, who was a self-taught lawyer; both rode horseback from settlement to settlement. ACHILLES

1. 111 Page 66
2. 111 Page 66
3. 113 Page 69

knew something about medicine and carried simple remedies; he knew some law and aided in settling disputes among neighbors, and he brought along letters and newspapers so the people could learn what was going on in the world.

In those days camp meetings in some river bottom grove were about the only recreation the settlers had. They would bring food and bedding in their covered wagons and would probably stay a week, and a never forgotten event was "the Fourth of July." They would do some visiting, hear some preaching and give the youngsters a chance to do some frolicing.

When out on circuit the preacher was always the guest of the family that could afford the best in the community. The story is told that the preacher arrived late in the evening and was preparing to retire, and there was a knock at the door, and there was a man and woman waiting to see him. The man said they wished to get married and the preacher asked if he had a license and the man said "No". Then the preacher said -- "Well, this is Saturday night and it is too late to get a license so you will have to wait till Monday". Then the man said -- "Revern', can't you just say a few words to tide us over to Monday?"

THE BLACK HAWK WAR

During the year 1804, William Henry Harrison took from the Fox and Sauk tribes, 50,000 acres they had in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois and moved the Indians across the Mississippi to where the state of Iowa is, and where the hunting was not so good. While Chief Black Hawk and his men were away hunting, white men destroyed the Indian homes and crops and killed some of the people and the Indians were very miserable and hungry. During the spring of 1832, chief Black Hawk with about 400 warriors returned to Illinois intending first to talk the situation over peacefully. When his party first appeared the natives cried "Indians" and a hastily organized force rode out to meet them. Black Hawk sent three Indians with a flag of truce and also sent other Indians to follow and observe; but the observers became frightened and fled, and the white men thinking there was a retreat, pursued them and were badly beaten. The governor of Illinois called for volunteers and Achilles Coffey and Abraham Lincoln were appointed captains of their companies, and Jefferson Davis participated as a lieutenant of the regular army. The white man's superior army routed Black Hawk and his warriors. Abraham Lincoln said "blood was drawn". He never fought so many mosquitos in his life.

In those early days money rarely circulated. It was the custom for everybody to help supply his neighbor's need, build a house or barn, or harvest a crop. Natural resources were plentiful. In gratitude for his services, Rev. Coffey's flock saw that he was well taken care of, and his farm was one of the show places of the country. ACHILLES Coffey and his little wife lived well, and were accepted leaders of refinement and culture.

Great grand-mother Jane Dean Coffey was related to the Clay family^① and her father was a Methodist minister. My mother wrote in her letter: "I will remember my grand-mother. She was slender and dainty. She loved beautiful things and had them about her. It was great in my childhood to spend some time with her." That she had lovely china and my mother said that she liked to go there and drink tea.

As was the custom of the time, men of great grand-father's position wore plug hats and frock coats. He did no farming, his work was preaching. The farm supplied the family's needs. He worked "for the Lord". He preached in the whole country, in southern Illinois, Missouri and later in Kansas where his son, our grand-father, Colonel James A. Coffey was active.

Ministers of different associations of the Baptist church in southern Illinois, assembled periodically to discuss doctrine and creed. Controversy arose between the Regular Baptists and a new organization, the United Baptists, who believed missionaries of the faith should be paid, contrary to the early Apostles and the present organization, and Latter Day Saints, whose thinking was above material reward.

Great grand-father ACHILLES COFFEY was called upon to write a history to show by precedent that the United Baptists were wrong and he entitled his book --- HISTORY OF THE REGULAR BAPTISTS.^② The book was entered by act of Congress the year 1877. There are 185 well written pages, and is prefaced with his picture and his biography, both of which are reproduced and from which I quote ---

"It seems rather strange that a man who has been raised among the savages and wild beasts, could write a history, but when we consider that the most talented and useful men have been what is termed self-made, the mystery is solved. Elder Coffey took a great deal of pains to gain an education, and is a tolerable fair scholar."

Among the many other things my mother kept was a little pamphlet of seven pages --- MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE REGULAR BAPTISTS, already referred to, and this edition closes with the obituary of Rev. Achilles Coffey which is as follows ---

"Dear Brethern: In compliance with the order of the association it becomes our sad duty to make this public announcement of the death of our beloved Brother and Father in Isreal, Elder Achilles Coffey, who departed this life at his residence near Bethels Creek Church, Saline County, Ill., on the 10th day of March 1883. Elder Coffey was born in the year 1806, and consequently in his 77th year he died."

So it happened that ACHILLES COFFEY lived four years after the death of his son, our grand-father --- Colonel James A. Coffey.

1. 114 Page 71

2. 115 HISTORY OF THE EARLY BAPTISTS

Dear Coffey Cousins ----

This book was originally published by Frank R. Moore, of Laguna Beach, California. He is now deceased. The original book was so poorly printed that it was impossible to re-print it. It was all re-typed, exactly, as he had prepared it. The photographs were of such quality that they could not be reproduced, so the pictures have been omitted. Additional information provided by John Coffey, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has been included. John Coffey is now deceased. An all-name Index has been added. This book was originally published in 1969.

For information, as to cost, and availability of additional copies of this book, send SASE to:

GENE BREWINGTON
4728 NW 59 TERR
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
73122

PRINTED
1986

Lots of ERRORS

COAT OF ARMS ①

One definition of the term - Coat of arms - is:

"A coat of arms is a light garment worn over the armor in the 15th and 16th centuries often charged with the heraldic bearings of the wearer."

What authority the Coffey family had for this mark of distinction is stated in the photostat sent to me by Mr. John Coffey, --- ①

"Family historians state that the family traces its descent from one Cobthach --- who was living in County Cork, Ireland, about the beginning of the eighth century, A.D. He was the father of Donald Mor ---"

and after naming fifty-two generations, father to son, ② we get from the photostat the following ----

"These families appear to have been, for the most part, of the landed gentry and yeomanry of the British Isles.

"Although it is not entirely clear from which of the many lines of the family in England and Ireland, the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, it is generally believed that most, if not all, of the Coffeys and Coffees derive from one common ancestor." ②

"One of the most ancient and most frequently used of coat of arms of the Coffey or Coffee family of Ireland, is that described as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884)."

Arms, --- "Vert, a fess ermine, between three coons or Irish cups or."

Crest, --- "A man riding on a dolphin proper."

Motto, --- "Non providentia sed victoria." ③

1. 102-C, Page 46

2. 102-A, Page 44

3. 102-C, Page 46

From pamphlet in the Frank A. Moore Collection:

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MENOG RIVER ASSOCIATION OF REGULAR BAPTIST, BEGAN AND HELD WITH THE COTTAGE GROVE CHURCH, COMMENCING ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER, A.D. 1883, AND TWO SUCCEEDING DAYS ---- H.B. FRIEND, PRINTER, HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS, 1883

SUNDAY WORSHIP

At 10 o'clock A. M. Sunday, a large concourse of people having assembled at the stand, services were introduced by Elder Josiah Harriss, of Bethel Association (Illinois), who used for a text the 22nd verse of the 6th chapter of Romans: "But now being made free from sin," etc. Elder J. B. Hardy of Original-Little River Association, (Ky.), followed, using 25th v., 5th chapt. of John: "Verily, verily, I say unto you the hour is coming and now is," etc. Elder Lewis Hea, of Skilo Fork Association, (Illinois), then concluded in a brief and appropriate exhortation, when the meeting adjourned by singing and taking the parting hand. J.M. BURNETT, Clerk

OBITUARY

DEAR BRETHREN: In compliance with the order of the Association, it becomes our sad duty to make this public announcement of the death of our beloved Brother and Father in Isreal, Elder ACHILLES COFFEY, who departed this life at his residence near Bethels Creek Church, Saline County, Ill., on the 10th day of March, 1883.

Elder COFFEY was born in the year of our Lord, 1806, and was consequently, in his 77th year when he died. He was born in Wayne County, Kentucky, and in 1813, the time of the British war, removed with his parents to Indiana. After several removals, instigated, no doubt, by the unsettled conditions of the country and the many vicissitudes through which they had to pass, they finally, in the autumn of 1820, located in Sangamon County, Illinois, where they remained a few years, when a permanent settlement was made in Saline County. This was at that time a wilderness country, and there were little or no educational facilities. He professed a hope in the Savior in his youth, and united with the Regular Baptist church at Bethels Creek, and soon thereafter commenced preaching the gospel of Christ, and proved faithful through life, doing great service for the Baptist cause in Southern Illinois and other places where he traveled, and he traveled and preached a great deal. During the time of the division on the missionary question, he took an active part, and did great service to the Regular Baptist cause, opposing as he ever did the innovation of man in the affairs of our religion. He proved faithful until death.

He was afflicted for many years with lung disease, and gradually wore out, but would go to meeting as long as he could; and when unable to stand, he would sit down and proclaim the gospel of our salvation. He lived through life without a single charge being brought against him, and died without a single stain upon his character. The church placed such implicit confidence in him that the brethren besought him to write a history of the division of the Baptists and the cause which led to that event, which he reluctantly did in a faithful and lucid manner, which has had, and should still have, a wide circulation throughout the country. Although he is dead, but yet speaketh.

As above intimated, our departed brother had been in feeble health some time, was taken suddenly worse on Sunday night preceding his demise, and sank gradually until death relieved him from his suffering. Notwithstanding his age and enfeebled condition of body, his mind remained active and strong to the last. He frequently alluded to his approaching dissolution. He repeated verse after verse of favorite hymns, and spoke of the brightness of his hope. A few moments before death his physician, who was seated by his bedside, remarked:

"You bear your afflictions like a soldier and a Christian."

A moment elapsed, when Elder Coffey replied in a distinct, clear voice:

"I went to the Blackhawk War in 1832, and shortly after my return home I entered upon the ministry, and have been preaching forty-nine years and some months. Yes, I have fought a good fight and have kept the faith. I have finished my course, and am ready to be offered up."

Then asking to be turned over, he closed his eyes and died as if falling into a deep, peaceful sleep.

In his death his children have to mourn the loss of an affectionate father, his relatives and neighbors an honored and respected friend, the County of Saline a noble and useful citizen, and the church of which he has been an exemplary member for half a century (its beloved pastor most of the time) and one of its brightest ornaments and most gifted counselors; while the Regular Baptists of Southern Illinois lose in him one of their ablest defenders.

"Brother, though from yonder sky,
Cometh neither voice nor cry,
We know for thee, to-day,
Every pain hath past away."

R. FULKERSON)
J.M. BURNETT) Committee
H.B. FRIEND)

From: HISTORY OF COFFEYVILLE

THE D. A. R.

Jane Dean Coffey Chapter, Daughter of the American Revolution, was organized December 7, 1933, in the Colonial Room of Hotel Dale, at Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas. Incidentally, Montgomery County was named for the distinguished British Revolutionary patriot, General Richard Montgomery, who gave his life for the Colonial cause at the Battle of Quebec.

The Chapter was named for Jane Dean Coffey, mother of James A. Coffey, founder of Coffeyville, Kansas, and wife of Achilles Coffey, a Captain in the Black Hawk War. She was the daughter of Rev. Jacob Dean, a Methodist Minister. The organizing Regent of the local chapter was Mrs. Earl Moulder (Grace Weisegerber) a descendent of Patriot Richard Henry Lee. Many distinguished guests were present at the organization.

The charter members of the Chapter were Mrs. W.A. Bell, Miss Tillie A. Bettisworth, Mrs. J.P. Blair, Mrs. E.C. Brandt, Mrs. H.L. Campbell, Mrs. E.A. Conkling, Miss Irene Elliott, Miss Lella Elliott, Mrs. William Finley, Mrs. R.B. Fuller, Mrs. J.T. Gilstrap, Mrs. E.H. Hess, Mrs. C.D. Ise, Miss Elizabeth Ise, Mrs. C.O. Jones, Miss Bee McClellan, Mrs. W.D. Moore, Mrs. Frank Wall, Mrs. D.E. Wassam, Mrs. H.C. Weible, Mrs. W.E. Ziegler and Mrs. Earl Moulder. Miss Cordelia Ann Everett was added to the membership before the expiration of Mrs. Moulder's Regency tenure.

THE 'THIRD' JAMES COFFEY
Our Grand-father, COL. JAMES A. COFFEY

Quoting my mother's letter ① ----

"James A. Coffey was born November 18th, 1827, in Gallatin County, Illinois. He was the third of twelve children. He was reared on a farm, and in the year 1848, he bought some land in Gallatin County and began farming and soon after married.

"My mother's maiden name was Louisa Adelaide Ferris Long Carnahan, she was born in Wayne County, Kentucky in 1833. Her father was a Methodist minister. She lived in Illinois for some time and at the age of fifteen, married my father.

"He did not care for farming, and soon after he was married, he and his wife moved to Harrisburg, Illinois, where four children were born. Mary was born May 13th, 1851, Eben Rice Coffey was born Dec. 17th, 1852. Two other children died in infancy, one a son, John Gerry, and the other a daughter, Phoebe."

WEST --- TO KANSAS

Early in the year 1854 it became news that President Pierce had held council with many Indian tribes, ② the Wyandotts, the Shawnees, the Pottawatomies, the Sauk and Fox tribe and accordingly they ceded millions of their acres in Kansas which could be filed on and five years to pay at a Dollar and a quarter an acre. This set grand-father Coffey to thinking this would be a good "store country" and a location on one of the several trails would be good business in this new country; southern Illinois was swampy and there was much sickness. Grand-mother learned that a colony of New Englanders had founded the town of Lawrence and she felt that there would be good schools, social gatherings and preaching.

So they loaded three wagons, one with merchandise for the new store and the other two with family effects including slips and plants for a garden and a crate of chickens. Uncle Sales, grand-father's bachelor brother, went along to help drive, and Mary and Ebby took turns riding the pony and with the help of the family dog they herded the loose livestock. Grand-father was then twenty-seven years of age and grand-mother was twenty-one.

Many friends and relatives saw them off and much advice was given --- that going through Missouri to be careful and not argue the slavery problem. This was a great restraint on grand-mother.

She rarely lost in an argument.

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

The Coffeys were unaware that they were to have a part in one of the greatest melodramas that the country ever experienced; and the problem was --- would Kansas be a free state or a slave state? Where they were raised there was no slavery which they believed was wrong.

At that time there were to be no slave states west of the Mississippi, that would be north of the thirty six degree, thirty minute parallel, then as new states were added, free states of the north would have a majority, and possibly abolish slavery.

Jefferson Davis proved to be the smartest politician of his time. He managed to get Missouri admitted a slave state though north of the parallel. Then he tried to get Nebraska admitted a free state, though Kansas be admitted a slave state, and so was comprised that the settlers were to decide the question of slavery, known as "squatter's rights". This pleased Jeff Davis, as Missouri citizens had only to cross the line to make Kansas a slave state. Then followed seven years of strife, which the Coffeys experienced, sympathetically known as "Bleeding Kansas"^① where neighbor fought neighbor, a prelude of the Civil War.

While the southern planter was growing cotton and profiting from slave labor, the North was rapidly gaining in industry. There was a business man by the name of Amos Lawrence, who operated several mills in the New England States, and he was very wealthy. He bought cotton at his own price and sold manufactured cotton goods at a good profit. He was getting richer and the southern planter getting poorer and more in debt, and the contest between the industrial North and the southern planters was going from bad to worse.

But the Coffeys went blithely on their way to endure many years of hectic strife in the Territory of Kansas.

WESTWARD HO

It was a days journey from Harrisburg to the Mississippi River and here the Coffeys camped expecting to cross the next day, and the river traffic was an exciting introduction to their new venture. The walking-beam of the steamers measuring every yard of progress, the twin smokestacks leaving a trail of smoke and sparks and the paddle wheel splashing the water behind. Then there were flat-boats on their way to New Orleans, burdened with lumber and barrels of merchandise, and there were river ferries loaded with covered wagons. The Coffeys joined the procession the next morning.

It took several days of driving through Missouri to reach Westport Landing where the Kansas River (known as the Kaw) joins up with the Missouri. They arrived just before dark and Grand-father located a "free corral" which is a large parking lot with a high board fence where teams and wagons could be parked free over night except for the cost of hay and grain for the livestock. Grand-father took the family to the best hotel in town with its usual "Chick Sale" somewhere in the rear. Board was family style and you had your choice you could take it or leave it.

Westport was the greatest boom town there ever was; it was a hodge-podge of humanity, everyone intent on doing his best to share in the development of this new country. Settlers preparing to leave on the morrow to stake out a claim, mule skinners just in from across the American Desert, opportunists, some with good intent and some not so good. Indians who came to shop and take in the sights. After supper Grand-father and Uncle Sales strolled down to

the water front to watch the river steamers lined up at the dock with burly Negroes unloading the cargo, and Grand-father felt sure that some day he would have a hand in all of this business going on at this waterfront.

WAKARUSA CREEK 1854

As the Coffeys were preparing to leave the next morning, Grand-father enquired the way to the town of Lawrence, and he was told to take the road west along the "Kaw River" and that forty miles the road forked. The road south-west was the Santa Fe Trail, but to take the right hand fork which was the California Road, and that just after crossing the Wakarusa Creek bridge, a road due north would take him to Lawrence, a distance of about five miles.

The second evening the Coffeys came to the California Road, and at the Wakarusa Creek Crossing, Nate Blanton had a toll bridge and a wayside hotel where the Coffeys stayed overnight. ① Grand-father told Mr. Blanton he was looking for a site for a store and Nate Blanton told him a better place could not be found than right here, and that he would transfer the post-office to the store.

Grand-father was impressed by the amount of traffic on the California Road enroute to the Pacific Coast. So where the road took off to Lawrence he drove a stake and made a sign giving notice he was filing on this land. He and Uncle Sales pitched a tent, and next day with two wagons, they went to Lawrence.

Grand-father was in need of quinine, ② seemed he always needed quinine, and he was directed to the office of Dr. Robinson. Grand-father introduced himself and told the doctor he he intended operating a store near the Wakarusa Crossing.

Naturally, Grand-father wanted to know something about the town and the doctor informed him that he founded the town last August 1, 1854, that he as agent for the New England Emigrant Aid Society, located twenty-nine settlers. He named the town for Mr. Amos Lawrence, who was sponsoring the society. ③

Dr. Robinson said that the New England Aid Society arranged cheap transportation for the new settlers coming to Kansas and would help them get a start in this new country by selling them supplies on easy terms. A boatload of lumber had just arrived. There was plenty of land and settlers anxious to improve it and with some assistance given them, Mr. Lawrence would be assured of prosperous customers.

JAMES H. LANE, SOLDIER AND POLITICIAN

James H. Lane came to Lawrence just before the Coffeys did. He was a man of considerable experience. He had been a lieutenant governor of Indiana and in the war with Mexico, he led one regiment till its term was up, and then led the second regiment. ④ He now felt that Kansas offered more opportunity than he could find elsewhere.

1. 119

3. 125

2. Related by my mother 4. 124

Grand-father met Lane when he went to the office of John Speer to buy a recent edition of the KANSAS TRIBUNE, and as usual, they enquired where the other came from. Grand-father mentioned that he had a great grand-father by the name of Thomas Lane who lived in Kentucky and later in Indiana, and Lane assured Grand-father that this Thomas Lane was his grand-parent; so they were mutually pleased that they were related. ①

Lane advised Grand-father to get into politics; look to be governor or United States senator; but Grand-father's mind right then was getting set up in business near the Wakarusa Creek crossing. He and Uncle Sales loaded the two wagons with material for a store building which Uncle Sales was to operate, and material for a cabin for the family. After getting this done, Grand-father built several corrals and stocked up with hay and grain, and if an outfit on the way to the coast needed a better wagon or had a lame horse to trade, in a deal, Grand-father acted for the best interest of both parties.

GRAND-FATHER GETS INTO POLITICS

There had to be a government for the new Territory of Kansas, and President Pierce appointed Andrew Reeder to be the first governor. The people of Lawrence felt that their town should be the logical place for the governor to preside, but the President being pro-slave, selected the town of Leavenworth instead. During the six months that had existed, the best accommodation was a recently built clap-board hotel. Governor Reeder looked the hotel over and decided on more favorable quarters at Fort Leavenworth. ②

The governor called for an election for the citizens to choose members for a legislature, and Jim Lane persuaded Grand-father to be one of the election judges. The day of the election, there came by wagon, horseback and every way imaginable, hundreds of Missourians, hill-billies, waterfront riff-raff on their way to Lawrence seemingly out for a good time, ③ and Grand-mother watched them from her doorway with amazement. They would chase a stray chicken, shoot at the family dog and plague Grand-mother and she was disgusted. They would stop and one chap would drive a stake into the ground, then they would unlimber the cannon and fire a shot and pass the jug around to celebrate the event, "Kansas has acquired a new citizen."

That afternoon, the same parade of roughnecks came back down the road from Lawrence and with much celebration. One chap came to the door and asked Grand-mother for a drink and she motioned to the well with its gourd dipper and told him to help himself. Then she asked him what the parade was for and he told her that the Boston Yankees had sent a lot of slave haters to Lawrence to vote, and he said - "We came to vote too, we are from Missouri." Then Grand-mother asked him what he voted for and he said - "Well, Mam, I just don't know. I just voted."

1. 112 Page 67

2. 126

3. 125

MISSOURIANS STUFF THE BALLOT BOX

Grand-father got home late that night and told grand-mother that the Missouri rowdies had elbowed him out of his job and had stuffed the ballot boxes with their own votes.

Quoting from the book - THE STORY OF KANSAS, published by the State Board of Education, Page 53 ---

"On election day, hundreds of Missouri residents came to vote. They are proud of their rough speech and rough dress. In some instances the election Judges denied the Border Ruffians the right to vote, but the invaders drove away such judges at the point of the pistol and the bowie knife."

"On that day 6,213 votes were cast despite the fact that the census had revealed only 2,905 men of voting age. Of course the pro-slavery candidates were elected to the legislature for the Free-state candidates received only 791 votes."

There can be no doubt that Asberry Madison Coffey was one of the leaders of that parade of Missourians that passed Grand-mother's door and conducted the election, for Asberry was elected a member of the legislature, as according to the same book, page 204, which gives a list of the counties and for whom named ----

"Coffey County (named for) A.M. Coffey, a member of the first Territorial Legislature."

That Coffey County, Kansas was named for Asberry Madison Coffey is a fact, but that Coffeyville, Kansas "was named for him" as stated in the COFFEY-CLEVELAND papers was a false claim.

There were thirty six pro-slavers elected to the territorial legislature and only three Free-staters elected. Governor Reeder did not approve of the way the legislature was elected but did recognize it anyway; and President Pierce did not approve of Andrew Reeder and replaced him with Wilson Shannon.

The legislature copied some of the laws in force in Missouri, some of them were ---

"For helping a slave to run away from his master the penalty was death.

"Two years in prison for making a statement denying the right of a person to own slaves.

"No one opposed to slavery could serve on a jury."

Grand-father and Nate Blanton knew they were in a tight spot; they had the choice of joining up with the pro-slavery party, or move and leave all they had, or stay and fight it out. The Coffeys then had two children and were expecting a third and it would be difficult to move; but they and the Blantons decided to stay and protect their rights as best they could.

THE BIG SPRINGS CONVENTION

It was not long after the election that Jim Lane came in a hurry horse-back to the Coffey house and told Grand-father to inform the neighbors that there would be a meeting of Free-staters at Big Springs. Grand-mother asked what the meeting was about and Grand-father said there would be speaking, and she knew that if she could go along there would be opportunity to do some visiting. So she filled the wash-boller with fried chicken, pies, etc., and Uncle Sales closed the store and loaded the wagon with a tent and

some bedding, and they all went to Big Springs which was about seven miles up the California Road from the Coffey store.

The Free-staters knew they faced mob rule and their property and well being was at stake. They came from every direction to Big Springs and by every way that was possible and prepared to stay a few days.

Dr. Charles Robinson presided and assured his listeners that the New England Emigrant Aid Society would give every assistance. Among the many speakers was Mr. John Speer, publisher of the KANSAS TRIBUNE. Andrew Reeder, the deposed governor, told the Free-staters to ignore the "Bogus" legislature's laws and their appointed officers, and proposed they organize a provisional government of their own.

James Lane was introduced as having been a brilliant commander in the Mexican War, and who had held high office in the state of Indiana. Lane was right at home on the speakers platform and was a convincing speaker, and told the Free-staters that with their help he would rid Kansas of every Black Man by his proposed Black Law. (And he did get rid of slavery in Kansas, but it took him nearly seven years to do it.) It was agreed that the next meeting be held at the town of Topeka to organize a government of their own.

The Free-staters met in convention at Topeka, Kansas, Sept. 19th, 1855. Dr. Robinson was elected governor of the provisional government; and they passed some laws and ordered script for money. James Lane and Andrew Reeder were appointed to go as delegates to Washington, representing the Provisional government, but when they presented their credentials, they were ignored.

A committee was appointed, with J.A. Coffey, our grand-father, as chairman to call on Judge Wakefield to protest the overt acts of the pro-slavery party in the recent election, as reported in J.N. Holloway's book: HISTORY OF KANSAS ----

"-- the chairman, Mr. J.A. Coffey, accordingly called upon the governor and received affidavits setting forth the manner in which the Missourians unlawfully invaded the polls and elected members of the legislature instead of actual settlers. Judge Wakefield then took the poll book and called the attention to the names of well known citizens of Westport and asked him if he knew these gentlemen. On reply he did, the judge asked him what he thought of their coming to Kansas to elect members of the legislature. 'Perfectly right, perfectly right, those Missourians have just as good a right to vote as those from Massachusetts.'"

Judge Wakefield refused to listen to Mr. Coffey further so did not give Grand-father opportunity to tell how unlawfully the Missourians had taken possession of the polls, and how they drove away the proper judges.

THE TOWN OF LAWRENCE PREPARES FOR SIEGE

It was inevitable that neighbor would quarrel with neighbor and that there would be a killing. Franklin Coleman, who owned slaves killed a Free-stater because of a disagreement over the boundary of their claims. Sheriff Jones of Douglas County did not arrest Coleman but did arrest Jacob Branson, who he claimed threatened Coleman. Nate Blanton came in a hurry to the Coffey home, and he and Grand-father picked up several neighbors, James Abbott, Samuel Wood and others, altogether about fifteen men, and they stopped Sheriff Jones at Blanton's bridge and took the prisoner Branson away from him.

Of course Sheriff Jones was infuriated. He hurried to Governor Shannon and told him that armed men had interfered with the law, and he asked for help. So the Governor told him to call the militia, but Jones told him the Territory had no militia, so the Governor told him to organize one and Jones lost no time.

Jones then called on David Atchison, United States senator from Missouri, and he rounded up all the loose element along the Missouri water front and altogether had about fifteen hundred men. They camped across the creek from where the Coffeys lived and they drilled several days and of course this upset Grand-mother very much.

At the request of Dr. Robinson, the New England Emigrant Society sent six hundred Sharps rifles, the best weapon then made; also Henry Ward Beecher, a New York clergyman, sent several crates of Sharps rifles, and with each rifle, a Bible. The people of Lawrence elected Dr. Robinson commander-in-chief and James Lane, second in command. Lane organized rifle companies and built earth-works around the town. Companies of Free-staters came, among them was John Brown who brought his sons and son-in-laws and neighbors, and altogether there was gathered about 650 men. A cannon, kegs of powder and lead was secretly brought to Lawrence.

Lane put Grand-father in charge of the commissary and he gathered supplies of all kinds expecting a long siege. Grand-mother was left to her own resources looking after the family. The Territorial militia led by Jones and Atchison, passed by her door and she had a front seat at this parade.

The two armies faced each other for several days. Governor Shannon called on Dr. Robinson and James Lane explained that hostilities could end up by involving the whole nation and he requested restraint. Then Shannon met with Jones and Atchison and told them how well the Free-staters were equipped. Winter was coming on and liquid refreshments getting low, and Atchison told the boys that a defeat would be bad for the Democratic party, so the Missourians went home but with the feeling that somehow, the Yankees must not be allowed to be around.

PRACTICAL JOKES

The Missourians played every joke they could think of, and practical jokes that were not funny were practiced by both sides. Free-staters living near Leavenworth were loaded on a raft by the Pro-slavers, and set afloat down the Missouri River. An attorney in Leavenworth protested the cruel antics of the Pro-slavers. He was put on trial in a kangaroo court, found guilty, then rode on a rail and sold for a dollar. One Figit bet six dollars that he could bring in a Yankee scalp before dark and he collected. The Anti-slavers pillaged the town of Tecumseh, piling their effects in the streets. Just a few of the many incidents.

THE TOWN OF LAWRENCE 'SACKED'

Sheriff Jones on his way to Lawrence to make an arrest was shot. When citizens of Lawrence awoke the morning of May 21st, 1858, they learned that a force of 400 men occupied Mount Oread, and from there four brass cannons were pointed at the town. If the Yankees could not be made to leave by bluff, they were to be given some rough treatment.

First thing was to jail the Free-state leaders. United States Marshall Donaldson searched the town and arrested Dr. Robinson and two others and took them to prison. Andrew Reeder, under disguise, departed for Illinois, Sam Wood escaped by horseback to Iowa, and Jim Lane was there, but he was too elusive to be caught. The biography of our Grand-father Coffey states "that he was twice taken prisoner by the Pro-slavery party," but no details were given. John Speer left his home before the Pro-slavers arrived.

Atchison fired the first cannon shot at the Free-state hotel but bombarding did not knock it down. Then Jones ordered his men, among them were dragoons on leave from the fort, to break open and rob the stores and destroy the Press. They burned the hotel to the ground, and when they departed, they took the Free-state cannon with them.

On their way back to Franklin, Jones and Atchison (and no doubt Asberry Madison Coffey) with their army passed the Coffey home, and this time Grand-mother was frightened. She and Uncle Sales fled and she hid the children in the brush along the creek. My Mother well remembered this, she was then three years old. She remembered that the Missourians robbed the store, and turned over a barrel of black tar-heel molasses, thinking it was tar and would help burn the store. She told me that when the Missourians rode away, they tied ribbons around their horses necks. Grand-father's biography states that "he lost cattle and other stock to the Missourians."

John Brown was shocked at the crime committed on the town of Lawrence and he answered "terror with terror". In the quiet of night he and his sons dragged five of their neighbors from their homes and shot them and hacked them to death with swords.

THE BATTLE OF 'BLACK JACK'

H.C. Pate determined that old John Brown should not go unpunished for the Pottawatomie massacre. With fifty men he set out to find Brown, but captured two of his sons and he tied them up with chains. Then he and his outfit camped for the night. Brown was like a wolf "robbed of its young". He and his other sons and neighbors and a company of Free-staters led by Captain Shore, opened fire on Pate's camp at dawn. Quoting Alice Nichol's book, BLEEDING KANSAS, page 123 ---

"The firing lasted two or three hours. The Northerners who were fewer in number, made things very hot for the fifty men in Pate's camp. And when old John Brown's son Frederick -- described as a 'half-witted lad' appeared on a land rise brandishing a sword and yelled 'Come on' as if a regiment was behind him, the Missourians began to decamp down the ravine to their horses.

"There were twenty three men left when Pate finally surrendered, eight of them wounded in battle ---- Captain Abbott arrived on the scene with fifty men just as Pate surrendered, and other Free-settlers who heard of the battle began to appear. By Wednesday there was a good sized army gathered at Black Jack. These companies had not mobilized, however, to aid John Brown. Under informal command they moved forward to encounter some 300 Missourians under Whitfield and Coffey (Asberry Madison Coffey), encamped on Bull Creek. --- One command would have made war between brothers a reality --- when Colonel Sumner with his Federal dragoons came riding into 'no man's land', with a proclamation that all armed forces disband. The armies disbursed -- and gang rule took over again."

WASHINGTON CREEK FORT

At the settlement of Washington which was just beyond Big Springs was a Pro-slaver fort known as Washington Creek Fort ① and also known as Fort Saunders, which was the usual log building with log breast-works around it. From here, the Pro-slavers harrassed travelers on the California Road.

Lane was an expert at strategy and bluff. He marched his command around and around a nearby hill giving the Pro-slavers the impression that a formidable force was ready to strike, and the garrison fled without firing a shot. Soon after this, a volunteer army from North Carolina and Georgia was advancing on Lawrence, and by surprise, Lane routed them and they fled the country.

Grand-father held the title of Colonel as a soldier but also as being in charge of the commissary. Quoting from Alice Nichol's book - BLEEDING KANSAS, Page 134 ----

"Free soilers in Kansas were pictured as fighting the cause of humanity at great cost of life and personal property. Kansas relief became a great project in the North. Milwaukee raised \$3,000, Chicago \$20,000, Grand Kansas Aid Society of Buffalo, \$120,000, the Boston Committee \$20,000 and the New England Aid Society \$78,000. These gifts of cold cash were sent in addition to large supplies of food, clothing and munitions."

Grand-father not only delivered supplies to Lane's army but also Free-state families with necessities. He was Colonel to everybody.

TITUS, 'THE TORMENTER'

Samuel Walker, a Free-state captain was plagued by H.T. Titus who had jumped a claim near Walker's home and Titus converted the house into a fort and surrounded it with log breast-works. Titus stole Walker's livestock, burned his hay, and offered a reward for Walker, dead or alive.

As was the custom, Walker called on his neighbors for help, Grand-father, Nate Blanton and others. They stormed the Pro-slaver arsenal at Franklin, located a few miles east of the Coffey store. From there, they took a cannon known as 'Old Sacramento', a trophy of the Mexican War. With this they bombarded Titus' fort but failed to knock it down. Then they set fire to the fort by backing a load of hay against it and they smoked Titus and his twenty-six men out of it. Brinkerton wanted to kill Titus but Walker let Titus go --- It proved much to his regret.

THE MARCH ON LECOMPTON

Titus then had charge of the Pro-slaver prison at the Territorial capitol at Lecompton. He held captive Free-state leaders and he threatened to hang them if they did not join up with the Pro-slaver party. Lane determined to free these prisoners and to oust the Pro-slaver government and militia, and he declared he would hang the governor.

Supplies and recruits from the east for Lane's army were cut off by a blockade of the Missouri River. Lane then opened up a trail north through Iowa, building two forts for defense. Including the volunteers from the east and those he picked up in Nebraska, altogether with what he already had in Kansas, he had an army of about 650 men.

Lane located the Infantry in a position across the river from the town, he placed the artillery on the heights in front of the capital and the Cavalry of six companies took a position between the capitol and the camp occupied by dragoons from Fort Leavenworth.

On the approach of Lane and his army there was a hurrying to get the message to the United States troops asking for help against the "abolitionists" and soon the government cavalry came up with a dash. At this time, Lieutenant Colonel Cooke who was in command, apparently had just come from the governor's office, and to make the situation clear, the following is quoted from Mr. John Speer's book, ---

Headquarters
Camp near Lecompton, Sept. 5th, 1856

Major:

At 3:30 some citizens entered camp in haste; reporting a large force approaching Lecompton from below. I sounded 'boots and saddles'. In a few minutes I received a note from the governor reporting the same and asking protection for the town. ---- I sent off Capt. Anderson with the mounted dragoons. Some minutes later I marched in person at the head of the Second Dragoons, ordering the First Cavalry and Artillery to follow. About a mile from the town I came upon a flank of about 60 mounted men in line. I accosted Captain Walker asking him what they were after. He answered, they came to release prisoners. ---- he said they went into town to treat with the governor. I asked him if that was all of their men. He said there were 700 nearby. I told him that the prisoners had been ordered to be released. I arrived with Walker in the rear of the force. There were two pieces of artillery in position and their visible numbers might not have been above three hundred men. ---- I said, the Missourians you know have gone and the militia here are already gone. As to the prisoners they were promised release yesterday morning. Lane had evidently been in real or nominal command but had not presented himself to me. ----

With great respect
P. St. G. Cook, Lieut Col

John Speer's remarks ----

"the official report gives facts justifying the act of the Free-state men. It admits the prisoners had not been released although the order had been made. It was the oft-repeated violation of faith like this that made force necessary."

THE SLAVE OWNERS MOVE OUT

To avenge Lane's Lecompton victory, fifteen hundred Missourians were on their way to destroy the town of Lawrence. The newly appointed governor, John W. Geary, met this army at Blanton's bridge. The leader of the army was Dave Atchison, one time vice-president of the United States, and Geary reprimanded Atchison for a man of such high office to be on such a mission so then Atchison and his army left.

Fully empowered by Federal law, Geary ordered all armed forces to disband, and on his own judgement he appointed Lane and his army to be the Territorial militia.

By this time, the Missourians realized that they had no military protection and were moving out of Kansas, but some were slow to go. John Brown and his sons and neighbors harrassed those remaining by what they called "Jay-hawking". But one Charles Hamelton returned from Missouri, lined up eleven Free-staters and killed all but one, who feigned dead. As soon as Brown heard of this he went in search of Hamelton, and not finding him, Brown killed another slave owner in Missouri and freed fifteen slaves.

What I have written gives some idea of what Grand-father and Grand-mother went through in this so called "Wakarusa War". It all took place within a fifty miles radius of the Coffey home and store, which were located at the bottle-neck, Blanton's Bridge. All traffic east and west passed their door. The biography of Grand-father relates that he was "with Lane in the capture of Washington Creek Fort and the engagement at Lecompton", but the guerilla warfare was a frightful experience for both grand-parents which lasted about three years, and the future looked very bleak. An interesting feature, Asberry Madison was a colonel on the Pro-slaver side and Grand-father was a colonel of the Free staters side. Do you suppose that either realized they were related?

THE FIGHT OVER A CONSTITUTION

The Pro-slavers had succeeded in electing the second "Bogus" Legislature, and this body ordered what was known as the Lecompton Constitution which had not yet been voted on by the citizenry. Governor Geary dismissed the "Bogus" Legislature before its term was up and substituted the Provisional Free-state legislature, which held sessions at Topeka. For all this, the Pro-slavers threatened Governor Geary and the President would give him no protection and he quit; so Robert J. Walker took his place. The Lecompton constitution was not yet a law, and Governor Walker ordered a vote on it by the people. As written by the "Bogus" legislature, - a YES vote was for slavery and a NO vote was also for slavery, and although favoring slavery, Governor Walker was so disgusted he would not sign the bill, and the President quarreled with him and Walker quit.

Frederick P. Stanton, Walker's secretary then became governor. During his term the Free-state legislature had replaced the "Bogus" legislature and they re-wrote the constitution, so worded that a NO vote was definitely against slavery.

Governor Stanton was determined that an honest vote be had. He selected Grand-father James Coffey to be one of the commissioners to supervise the voting in the sparsely settled country south of Lawrence. The following is quoted from a letter sent to me by the University of Kansas, written by Mr. Broadhead ①----

"I find acting Territorial governor, Frederick P. Stanton appointed J.A. Coffey as one of three commissioners for Allen and Greenwood counties to set up the machinery in those counties prior to the voting on the Lecompton Constitution. Stanton's proclamation was dated December 15th, 1857."

The Coffeys and the Blantons packed what effects they could gather and departed south to carry out the appointment. The women folk were very happy to get away from all this strife torn area. They crossed the open prairie and camped on the creek bottom of the Neosho. Grand-father and Nate Blanton took along some blank ballots for the election and they set up voting places in some of the squatters soddy homes.

KANSAS BECOMES A 'FREE STATE'

The election on the Lecompton Constitution was held January 4th, 1868. This time the Pro-slavers lost out --- there were 10,268 votes cast in the Territory against slavery and only 138 for slavery.

President Buchanan was so displeased that Stanton permitted an election

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May 4, 1966

Mr. Frank R. Moore
432 Holly Street
Laguna Beach, California

Dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of April 25, requesting further information on James A. Coffey, was forwarded to this department for reply. I made a thorough search of the standard state and local history sources and was unable to find anything further on your grandfather's participation in the Wakarusa "war". Nor did our manuscript sources yield anything.

I did find that acting Territorial Governor Frederick P. Stanton appointed "J.A. Coffey" as one of three commissioners for Allen and Greenwood counties to set up the election machinery in those counties prior to the voting on the Lecompton constitution. Stanton's proclamation was dated December 19, 1857, and is reprinted in "Documentary History of Kansas," Kansas Historical Collections, V (1891-96), pp. 459-460. The same article, on page 516, shows that J.A. Coffey was elected as one of the "chairman supervisors" for Humboldt township, Allen county, in November of 1858.

I would suggest that you write to the Kansas Historical Society (Memorial Building, Topeka) for further information. Their holdings in Kansas history are quite extensive and perhaps they can be of more help than we have been. Should other data turn up here I will notify you.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Michael J. Brodhead
Kansas Collection

MJB/dm

on the re-written constitution that Stanton had to give up his seat to James W. Denver.

Pro-slavery sympathisers held another convention and wrote a third Lecompton Constitution and a majority vote was for slavery. Governor Denver's sympathies were for slavery and he advised the President that a majority of the citizens of Kansas were against slavery, but the President ignored Denver and sent a message to Congress urging that Kansas be admitted a slave state. The United States Senate accepted the constitution but the House referred the bill back to the voters. Denver was unable to please the President and he quit and Samuel Medary took his place; but the bill never reached the President's desk.

Then what was known as the Wyandotte Constitution was voted on Oct. 4th, 1859. There were 10,421 votes cast for a free state and 5,530 votes were for slavery. Jeff Davis got the bill held up in Congress sixteen months and this delay became a national issue. The hanging of Old John Brown crystalized the bitterness of the North and feelings reached a climax in the South when Abraham Lincoln was elected President, and immediately the Civil War started and that is another story. President Buchannon reluctantly signed the bill making Kansas a free state, January 2nd, 1861. James Lane was elected United States Senator from Kansas and Dr. Robinson was elected the first governor of the state.

FOUNDING THE TOWN OF HUMBOLDT

James Lane made good the promise he made at the Big Springs Convention that he would free Kansas of slavery, and while he was racing from one meeting to another getting out the vote on the next constitution, Grand-father and Nate Blanton were supervising elections as according to Mr Broadhead's letter. ①

Quoting Mr. Broadhead's letter further ---

"The same article on page 516 shows that J. Coffey was elected one of the 'chairman supervisors' of Humboldt Township, Allen County, in November of 1858."

Allen and Greenwood counties were as far south as settlers were allowed to go, as beyond was the Osage Indian Reservation.

When government surveys were completed that far south, Grand-father located the village of Humboldt at where the Shawnee Trail crossed the Neosho Creek, and Nate Blanton made the survey of the townsite. According to my Mother's letter, her father paid a twenty dollar gold piece to some settler for the location.

Grand-father was then fairly well fixed for money. The Federal government had paid him for the store the Missourians had burned on Wakarusa Creek, for the hundred tons of hay and the sixteen spans of mules the Federal dragoons questioned while he was away from home. ②

As commissariat for Lane, Grand-father had gained valuable experience merchandising, and this opportunity as a promoter was soon in evidence. He built a store at Humboldt for his brother, Sales, to operate; he built a nice home for the family and a church for his father, The Rev. Achilles Coffey. He sold town lots and dealt in farm lands. Nate Blanton expected that the government land office would be located there and he would be appointed commissioner.

During the year 1927 I made a trip from Kansas City to Coffeyville. The bus stopped at Humboldt which our grand-father founded about a hundred and ten years ago, and I found it a village of about two thousand inhabitants.

Col. COFFEE BECOMES ACQUAINTED WITH THE OSAGES

Grand-father did not operate any store or spend any time farming. He hired help to do that. This new country offered so many opportunities that besides looking after elections, his restless soul did not let him stay at any one place very long.

Government officials recognized Grand-father as a very capable man and gave him license to travel the different Indian reservations as he pleased.

An interesting report of his first activities is a newspaper clipping loaned to me by our cousin, Mrs. Louise Hughes. This was printed by the Herald of Freedom, Lawrence, Kansas, dated March 20th, 1858. ----

"Our friend, J.A. Coffey of Humboldt, Allen County, states that he has just returned from a trip to the Osages, who reside on the lower Neosho. He states that there are thirty families of 'half breeds' located on the Neosho, generally of French extraction, who are quite intelligent, talking the English language. He passed from cabin to cabin, and learned their wants and disposition of the tribe. He says that all of them expressed the desire for a treaty with the government by which their rights in certain portions of the soil might be secured, to them in severality, and that they might be converted into citizens, sending their wilder ones to the most distant portion of the Territory lying west of the Verdigris."

Grand-father became very well acquainted with the Osages and they appreciated his sincere interest to help them. They wished to adopt him into their tribe and wanted to make him a chief, which was a great compliment.

A "half breed" Osage by the name of Billie Conners interested Grand-father very much. Billie was well educated and spoke several Indian languages and was well acquainted with all the Indian country. Billie told Grand-father about another "half breed" by the name of Chisholm who lived on the Arkansas river with the Wichita tribe; and that Chisholm had a trading post there and Grand-father was interested in seeing that trading post.

Billie stayed over night at the Coffey home, and early the next morning he and Grand-father loaded some mules with camp equipment and provisions and gifts for Indians. They took off west and camped most every night at some Indian village.

After traveling about seventy miles they came to where the Little Arkansas emptied into the Arkansas River, and near here they found Chisholm's home and trading post. As Billie told Grand-father, Chisholm's door was always open to every body that came that way, and no one was ever turned away.

Chisholm had several wagons and made trips north to Council Grove located on the Santa Fe trail to buy supplies which he peddled to Indian customers in the Indian Territory. He also was interpreter and guide for Federal troops located at Ft. Reno and Fort Sill.

Billie and Grand-father followed Chisholm's wagon tracks south through Indian Territory which was then known as Chisholm's road, and they traveled through the Comanche country as far as Fort Reno. From here they went east to Ft. Gibson which was near the confluence of the Verdigris, the Neosho and the Arkansas rivers and this was in Cherokee country. Ft. Gibson was on the Shaw-

KANSAS 100 YEARS AGO -- Released by the Kansas State Historical Society

This brief report on the Osage Indian country in southeast Kansas was printed in the Herald of Freedom, March 20th, 1858:

Our friend, J.H. Coffey, of Humboldt, Allen County, states that he has just returned from a trip to the Osages, who reside on the lower Neosho. He states that there are thirty families of 'half breeds' located on the Neosho, generally of French extraction, who are quite intelligent, talking the English language. He passed from cabin to cabin, and learned their wants and disposition of the tribe. He says all of them expressed the desire for a treaty with the government by which their rights in certain portions of the soil might be secured, to them in severality, and that they might be converted into citizens, sending their wilder ones to the most distant portion of the Territory lying west of the Verdigris.

Mr. C. represents the country as rolling and very beautiful with no swamp land. The low lands are exceedingly fertile.... The timber is more abundant than in the more northern portions of the Territory, though water appears scarce. He thinks the country very well adapted to stock raising. Cattle were running at large and have done so all winter without attention. He saw beef killed while he was there, which had not been fed the whole winter, which was of very good quality

REPORTS FROM THE WEST AND SOUTHEAST -----

The following article, describing present northwest Marion county and commerce on the Santa Fe trail, appeared in the Herald of Freedom, Lawrence, March 13, 1858:

During our stay at Emporia, we made the acquaintance of Mr. Radcliff, who has established a trading post at the point where the Santa Fe road crosses the Cottonwood, about fifty miles west and south of Council Grove, and about sixty miles west of Emporia. Mr. R. states that the Cottonwood rises about fifteen miles west of his location, and is but a small stream, though flowing the whole year at that point, derived principally from several large springs. The timber on the Cottonwood, at the crossing of the Santa Fe road, is not plentiful, and poorly adapted to the wants of a country, being almost exclusively cottonwood. It is from the character of the timber that the creek derives its name.

Mr. Radcliff states that the country is very fertile, and well adapted to agricultural purposes. Stone coal has been found along the creek, where it has been washed from the banks. The locality is healthful and promises well for the pioneer. Another settlement has been started forty-five miles still farther southwest, where the Santa Fe road crosses the Arkansas. Mr. R. says there are several wooded streams which cross the road between those points. Surveys have been completed seven miles west of the point indicated on the Cottonwood.

Mr. R. informs us that over two thousand freight wagons, each drawn by from four to six pair of oxen, or from six to eight mules, and carrying from five to six thousand pounds of merchandise passed over this road to New Mexico last year. He states that this commerce is increasing yearly.

nee Trail, also called the Texas Road which was the main thoroughfare from Texas, east. The traffic on this trail reminded Grand-father of the Santa Fe Trail; there were wagon train after wagon train and also herds of wild long horned skinny cattle, commonly called "Mexies" being driven to eastern markets.

From Ft. Gibson, Grand-father and Billie took the trail north along the Neosho, and just across the Kansas line, they visited the Indian chief, Chetopa. When Grand-father arrived back home at Humboldt, the third daughter, Laura, had just arrived.

Grand-father soon became acquainted with the needs of the expanding frontier which had been neglected because of the "Wakarusa War" up north, and the first thing he did was to interest the Federal government.

He took Billie Conners, the Osage scout, with him to Washington. Indian affairs were handled by the War Department, and from the Secretary, he received a franchise to operate trading posts in any of the Indian Reservations, and from the Postmaster General he received authority to handle United States mail where-ever he had a trading post.

His first trading post he located at Chetopa, ^① down the Neosho to near the south-east corner of the Territory of Kansas near the Shawnee Trail. Here he built a "sodle" store. Drovers, freighters, emigrants and Indians could buy supplies and get mail, and he had corrals where livestock could be fed and nearby was a camp ground.

GRAND-FATHER ESTABLISHES HIS FOUR TRADING POSTS

Some of the herders were taking their herds to Westport, so Grand-father established a second trading post at Fort Scott. Eastern buyers were reluctant to buy the wild skinny Mexies, so Grand-father got into the cattle business by taking Mexies in trade for groceries, and these he pastured near Humboldt and fattened them for market. The Indians would bring in hides and tallow from the dead Mexies they had skinned and Grand-father boated these down the Little Osage River to St. Louis from his Fort Scott post.

His next trading post was located where the Verdigris crossed the Indian Territory line (later Coffeyville) and then he and A.B. Canfield operated a trading post in the Indian Territory just beyond the Caney (Pawhuska). ^② He freighted supplies to these trading posts from his store at Humboldt. He operated a "stage line" using light spring wagons they called "hacks" to carry passengers and mail.

Early in the year 1861, the fourth daughter, Amy, arrived at the family home in Humboldt. ^③

Grand-father bought merchandise wholesale from Draper and Company located at Westport. On his way there he met a survey party and he thought they might be government surveyors. One of the party introduced himself, Octave Chenuite, chief engineer and general manager of the newly organized Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad Company, and stated they were making a preliminary survey for their right-of-way. Their destination was Texas and they were now headed for Fort Gibson. When Chanute found out that he was talking to Colonel Coffey he was very much interested in learning about the country. They looked the government map over, and Grand-father advised that the railroad be routed

by way of Humboldt. Chanute said that a town being benefited by his railroad should pay a bonus to his company; but Grand-father said that the community did not have much money, but Humboldt being the only town that far south, a tentative deal was made. Both men were aware that as soon as the Civil War was over, the Osage reserve would be opened to settlement, and Grand-father advised that it would be best to cross the Verdigris River at the Indian Territory line. Here, he recently established a trading post which in time became Coffeyville. Chanute routed his railroad by the way of Humboldt but established division point and shops at his own town of Chanute.

Chanute told Grand-father that the Federal government had given approval to another railroad, he called it the "Katy" and that they were to route their railroad to Texas just west of the Missouri line. The understanding was that the first railroad to reach the Indian Territory line would be granted right-of-way through the Indian Territory to Texas. Chanute assured Grand-father that the other outfit did not have a chance of beating his line.

While the Coffey family was at Humboldt, the fifth daughter, Elizabeth, was born. So now the Coffeys had five girls and one boy, and Grand-father felt that better cultural advantages were needed; so according to my Mother's letter -----

"From here (Humboldt), we moved to Kansas City. While there my Father was about various stores; one at Chetopa, one at Ft. Scott, a post at Wichita and one in the Indian Territory. Also he had some cattle interests and was connected with several drives from Fort Worth to Omaha. In 1865 he took a stock of goods to the northern part of the Dakota Territory where he remained with the Sioux Indians for a year. The family stayed in Kansas City. In the meantime he had a store at #3 Levy Street, Kansas City."

THE STORE ON THE WATER-FRONT

Grand-father by this time was an early chain store operator and he established his own wholesale house with W.A. Marsh, at #3 Levy Street, Kansas City. During the year 1927 I located this property. Levy Street was only about three blocks long near the Missouri River. The foundation of about a dozen buildings remained and I could pick out #3. My Mother told me it was a four story building and had one of the first elevators in Kansas City. Opposite these buildings were remains of old pilings protruding above the water, the remains of a wharf. How different this place looked to my Mother when she was a little girl. They often watched river boats land, often accompanied by a band and many gay passengers.

Continuing my Mother's letter ----- ①

"The family spent two years in Westport. My Father built a two story brick building and established a drug store for family revenue; this was operated by a couple of clerks, and a Dr. Wilson. In later years, a part of our 50 acre home place was taken into a Kansas City park; part is now a fine residential section."

In my Mother's collection was a deed for 49 and 70/100 acres, dated Jan. 19th, 1868 made in favor of Louisa A. Coffey. While the family were living in Kansas City, the youngest daughter, Lulu, was born in the year 1866. Schooling was limited and Grand-father sent the oldest children, my Mother

1. 114 Page 71

and Uncle Ebbie to a Catholic seminary. There is also another deed, Lot 4, located in Kansas City; probably title to #3 Levy Street. Also there is a deed for 320 acres title to a farm located near Kansas City.

FINDING A MARKET FOR TEXAS CATTLE

Because of the war between the North and the South, Texas drovers were having trouble disposing of their cattle. The Northern feeders did not like the long horned Mexies as they stampeded their native stock which became infected with Texas fever. Missouri, Illinois and eastern Kansas quarantined against the Mexies and President Lincoln placed an embargo on the Mississippi so that the Confederates could not get meat from Texas. Most of the Texas cowboys went off to war and the Mexies ran wild all over the open plains and multiplied by the thousands and no market. This was a problem for Grand-father although his various posts did business with the Indians and the scattered settlers who lived nearby.

It afterwards developed that the tick which caused the Texas fever did not survive the cold winters of Kansas. Now that about all the buffalo were killed off, the Texas steers grew fat on the buffalo grass and bluestem which flourished on the Kansas prairie. New settlers were in the market for cattle expecting railroads would be built west of the river as soon as the war was over.

The Chisholm trail was the shortest way from Texas to mid-Kansas, so Grand-father established a post at where the city of Wichita now is, to tap the trade that would pass by on this trail. He traded supplies for cattle and bought cattle outright which he sold to settlers who pastured cattle expecting to make a good profit as soon as the war was over, and some did cross-breeding to raise better stock. Grand-father drove several herds to Omaha to sell to eastern packers.

JOSEPH MCCOY

Another chap who was active in the cattle deal after the war was Joseph G. McCoy. He was a farmer, cattle feeder and a trader in live stock. He lived in Sangaman County, Illinois. One day he bought some long horns from a man who had driven his herd from Texas who told of immense numbers of cattle needing a market.

At this time railroads were just being built into the new West and McCoy was the first to interest the railroads to ship cattle to eastern markets. At St. Louis he talked this over with the president of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, who would not listen to the idea. Then McCoy went to Kansas City. The following is a Xerox copy of an account of his visit as reported in the book -- THE CHISHOLM TRAIL, published by the University of Oklahoma -----

"He found a frontier town, an unsightly aggregation of bluffs and canyon like gorges, bisected with deep cuts and large fills, called streets. He was directed to the office of Marsh and Coffy; a firm that traded in goods for cattle in the Indian Territory, and along the Red River in Texas. Marsh told the visitor of the advantages of central Kansas for shipping stock. He pointed out that the Kansas and Pacific eastern division had pushed up the Kaw as far as Salinas. He suggested that freight charges might be more than the cattle were worth. Never-the-less he gave McCoy a note of introduction to the railway freight agent in nearby Wyandotte."

Reproduced from:

THE CHISHOLM TRAIL

Published by: The University of
Oklahoma Press

MAN OF ENTERPRISE

Gulf Southwest. He also informed McCoy of the political and sometimes violent means that had been used to obstruct the trailing of Texas cattle into Missouri and eastern Kansas.

These conversations, along with confirming evidence from other sources, deeply impressed McCoy. He determined to build at some accessible point a depot or market to which the Texas drover could bring his stock unmolested and be reasonably sure of finding a buyer. This project, he recalled several years later, became "a waking thought, a sleeping dream."³

In casting about for a site suitable for a shipping yard, McCoy first considered a point on the bank of the Arkansas River near Fort Smith. From there, dealers could ship cattle by river boats to Cairo, and thence by rail to pastures and feed lots in southern and central Illinois. But before taking any step toward building at Fort Smith, he made a trip to Kansas City. Arriving by a Missouri Pacific train from St. Louis, he found the frontier town an "unsightly aggregation of bluffs and almost canyon-like gorges, bisected with deep cuts and large fills called streets."

McCoy climbed a deep cut named Main Street and made inquiries about the livestock business. He was directed to the office of Marsh and Coffy, a firm that traded goods for cattle in the Indian Territory and along the Red River in Texas. Marsh told his visitor of the advantages of central Kansas for shipping stock. He pointed out that the Union Pacific Railroad's eastern division had pushed up the Kaw River as far west as Salina. He suspected that freight charges might be more than the cattle were worth. Nevertheless, he gave McCoy a note of introduction to the railway freight agent in nearby Wyandotte, Kansas.

The agent at Wyandotte showed interest in McCoy's project. To allow the Illinoisan to look over possible sites, he gave him a round-trip pass to Salina. When the train reached the prairie village of Abilene, it was delayed about an hour while a bridge was repaired. McCoy made use of this wait to ask several Abilene men about the suitability of that point for cattle yards. On the return trip, he stopped at Junction City—which some of the buffalo hunters called Junk Town—twenty-four miles east of Abilene. There, at the Hale

³ McCoy, "Historic and Biographic Sketch," *Kansas Magazine*, Vol. II, No. 6 (November, 1909), 49.

From the book:

WHO'S WHO IN COFFEYVILLE AND VICINITY

By: C. C. Drake

Coffeyville

Dedicated to - -

Col. James A. Coffey

THIS humble volume is hereby dedicated to the memory of the late Col. James A. Coffey, founder and foremost citizen of the original town of Coffeyville: a soldier in the ranks of John Brown at Postawatomie Creek: an adventurer, if you please, who marched with that host of dauntless pioneers, who, impelled by a burning urge within them, were thrilled with the task of rolling back frontiers for an advancing civilization. Leader among men, son of a warrior and evangelist, Col. Coffey blazed a trail of commerce extending from Westport Landing to Dodge City—a trail that was fairly dotted with trading posts planted by his own hands and at least two thriving villages, Humboldt and Coffeyville, laid out with his own engineering skill.

Then, besides trading posts, Col. Coffey built and operated mills and warehouses, staked and proved a government claim—and farmed. Facing all of the physical handicaps of pioneer conditions, he wrought in a remarkable manner. But that was not all, for Col. Coffey found time for the development of the domestic side of his life. He was the faithful husband of a good wife and a guidance to their six children.

From his many diverting duties, Col. Coffey, somehow found time to build a spacious, if not pretentious, residence in Coffeyville, in which he lived with his family for several years. Accounts tell us it was a happy, congenial, religious and cultural household. Passersby, it is related, often would hear the strains of piano or guitar music emanating from the Coffey home. While of an early morning it was not infrequent to hear the blended soprano and alto voices of the daughters burst forth in melodious song.

What more beautiful picture of true domesticity! And, yet, the head of that household, who was so devoted to his family that he hauled a new grand piano from Kansas City to Coffeyville that they might enjoy the blessing of instrumental music, was also a restless, intrepid pioneer whose merchandising footprints were implanted zigzaggedly across the length and breadth of a pioneer commonwealth embracing over 80,000 square miles of surface.

Such a man was he to whom we would pay tribute and bow before the shrine of his splendid deeds of pioneer achievement. We feel that Col. Coffey's contribution to the development of Kansas and its early trade centers together with his high exemplary character, merit this recognition in a book of this character.

C. C. DRAKE, Author.

McCoy selected Abilene for a shipping point which was reached by the Chisholm trail. He shipped the first year 35,000 head, and the next year, 1870, he shipped 75,000 head.

MEETING AT DRUM CREEK

As soon as the Civil War was over, the migration westward was in earnest. Previously most of the country across the river had been awarded to the many Indian tribes to be theirs "forever and forever", but private enterprise was now on its way with a greedy eye unwilling to wait for Uncle Sam to dispossess the Indians of their hunting grounds.

The Osages were not a migrant tribe. Most of the country between the Kansas River and the Arkansas River was originally theirs by occupation. But they surrendered their right to all but a strip fifty miles wide, north and south, near the Kansas line; and then again according to another treaty, this was reduced to a strip thirty miles wide, known as the Diminished Reserve. This is the way it was when Grand-father founded the town of Humboldt.

At this time, speculators from Wall Street gained control of the L. L. & G. Railroad and they were out to make a fast buck.

The Osage chiefs were summoned to a meeting at Drum Creek with government officials attended by a troop of cavalry at which the Osages ceded the Diminished Reserve, consisting of eight million acres at a price of twenty cents an acre, for the benefit of the L. L. & G. Railroad Company. Sidney Clark, congressman from Kansas exposed the fraudulent deal and Grand-father took several Osage chiefs to Washington and held counsel with high government officials and the deal was annulled. Grand-father lost the goodwill of the railroad company who saw that Sidney Clark was not re-elected to Congress. Another meeting was held at Drum Creek with the Osage chiefs, May 27th, 1868 by which the Federal Government arranged that the Osages received Ten Million Dollars for their land. Agent Gibson led the Osage tribe to their new reservation in Indian Territory with the town of Pawhuska the agency. This was to be theirs "forever and forever". The Indians were wards of the government which assumed responsibility for their welfare expecting in time that their wards would be self-sufficient, like the white man.

COFFEYVILLE FOUNDED 1869

At some uncertain time, Grand-father established his trading post on the Verdigris River near the Indian Territory line, and according to C.C. Drake:

"In August 1869, Col. Coffey, Blanton, Ed Fagan, John Clarkson and William Wilson formed a company and dedicated Coffey's earlier plat as the townsite to be known as 'The Village of Coffeyville'".

Grand-father remodelled his trading post for general merchandising, Nate Blanton built a two story hotel, Reed Brothers and Barndollar Brothers established themselves in business, and Grand-father sold town lots and dealt in farm lands.

No doubt, Nate Blanton surveyed the townsite of Coffeyville, and as the government made a corrective survey afterwards, title to lots in Coffeyville were uncertain, and lacked a court decision for two years, so the development of the town was delayed.

The Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad Company was aware of the situation, and just north of Grand-father's Coffeyville, they located what they called the "Railroad Addition to the Village of Coffeyville", which was within the surveyed Diminished Reserve. Together there was really one town, Twelfth Street marking the division. The Railroad Addition became the main business district.

Grand-father disposed of all the properties at Westport and Kansas City and built a temporary home for the family at Coffeyville. Railroads were not yet operating so the family made the trip by wagon, which was quite a lark for the six girls and one boy. Grand-mother was an expert camp cook. They had with them two Negro boys to help do the driving. Every evening they took off the side boards of the wagon and jiggled to the tune of a jews-harp.

THE OLDEST FINE HOME IN COFFEYVILLE

Grand-father built a dam across the Verdigris so as to operate a grist mill and a saw mill. Also, during the year 1870, he built a two story house for the family. It was the finest home in Coffeyville. It was built of sawed timbers of walnut and white oak and pinned together with oaken pins and wrought iron nails. I was in Coffeyville during the year 1927. A friend of the family, Mr. Lane, who owned a furniture store, took me in his car to see places of interest and I was most pleased to see the Coffey home. It impressed me that the structure looked like a grand old lady with a drooping bonnet, who had seen better days. The building was boarded up and not long after it was torn down.

The first school in Coffeyville was held in the kitchen of the Coffey home and Aunt Mary was the teacher. Later a two story school was built where the Coffey children received most of their education. The girls first learned to play the spinet, but Grand-father bought a piano later which was shipped from Kansas City to Humboldt, and then hauled by wagon to Coffeyville. The Coffey home was lively with music and singing and was the center of social gatherings.

Grand-father was very proud of his talented family. He was very style conscious and when returning from business trips east, he would arrange Grand-mothers hair in the latest mode. He would bring back lovely things for the women folk to wear. We have a ribbon four inches wide which was in Mother's collection. She said the ribbon came from Paris. Cousin Louise Emerson Hughes has a Paisley shawl Grand-father bought for Grand-mother. The Coffey women were models of fashion as well as talented.

Grand-father had a good size farm near Coffeyville and Grand-mother liked to stay there as much as at the two story walnut house in town, and was there when Grand-father was away on business.

One time she got tired waiting for Grand-father to return so she was driving to town in the farm wagon and Grand-father passed by; he was bringing company, smart looking men all horseback and no doubt expecting a chicken dinner, and Grand-father did not recognize Grand-mother with her load of youngsters and she in her sun-bonnet. The sequel to this episode has to be guessed at.

Uncle Ebbie and my Mother often mentioned about the family farm, and said that a big oil refinery has been built there.

music and other arts and building the first church in that remote and primitive area. The church still stands and is a proud landmark and is in regular use today in Beaver, Oklahoma.

Grand-father and our grand-mother, Louisa, were real pioneers and trail blazers in the development of the Great Plains of the American West, leaving their mark in the founding of the towns of Humboldt and Coffeyville, a city named in their honor, with a museum dedicated to them as founders.

Grand-father also established trading posts in the Dakotas and lived with the Sioux Indians for a year. He spoke several Indian languages fluently and made trips to Washington to negotiate for the Indians. He established trading posts where later was located the towns of Coffeyville, Wichita, Chetopa and Fort Scott. And he conducted trading posts in the Indian Territory and traded in Texas. His many trading posts could have been a forerunner of today's chain store.

Following is a picture of a herd of cattle taken "at round-up time", on the Beaver River near the Coffey ranch on Timber Creek. Some of the herd is from the original stock from our grand-father's estate.

Grand-father left this earthly plane at Dodge City, Kansas, one of the roughest, toughest cow-towns on the globe where women folk were not allowed out of doors on election day and seldom went on Front Street unless escorted.

THE OBITUARY OF JAMES A. COFFEY

The Kansas Historical Society sent me the following, which they copied from the TOPEKA COMMONWEALTH, January 12th, 1879 ----

"DODGE CITY TIMES; -- James A. Coffey of the firm of Coffey and Marsh, died in this city Monday morning last of pneumonia after an illness of eight days. Col. Coffey was 51 years of age. He was an old resident of Kansas. He resided in Dodge City but three months. He came to Kansas in the year 1854, and passed through the memorable and exciting struggle in the State during its early years. He was founder of Coffeyville, Kansas, a thriving town which was named for him. He also founded Humboldt, Kansas, which was laid out in 1859. Col. Coffey was well known in Kansas, and news of his death will be sad tidings for his many friends. His family has the sympathy in this sad bereavement".

Several years ago, Blanche, Tommy Murdock Jr., and I, visited Grand-father's grave. His body had been moved from its original site at Prairie Grove Cemetery to a cemetery which is about three miles west of Dodge. The Granite headstone was set in a base cut in limestone and through the action of the weather, the lime mortar had become disintegrated allowing the headstone to lean, so Tommy and I reset it with cement. The epitath which was inscribed on the headstone was written by our Aunt Mary, and is as follows --

"Oh, let us think of all the good
and all the kind advice he gave.
And, let us do it now, He's dead
and sleeping in his grave."

Grand-father's mercantile business in Dodge was carried on several years by his heirs. Meantime Grand-mother homesteaded on the banks of Crooked Creek, about fifteen miles southeast of Dodge. Here she built a two story house. Later she and Uncle Ebbie and family moved to Beaver City, Oklahoma. Here, Uncle Ebbie carried on a mercantile business and acquired a ranch on Timber Creek where later he and his family and Uncle Tommy Murdock and family established homes. Grand-mother had her own little sod house where the grandchildren loved to gather.

Agency next week. The government is building a fort in the Panhandle of Texas. I aim to go there between now and spring. It is a fine country and learned that land is 20 and 30 cents per acre. Write often. Yours with kind regards.

(Signed) J.A. Coffey

It was about this time my Father and Mother moved to La Veta, Colorado. Uncle Ebbie went along with them to be company. He was then twenty one and my Mother nineteen. The Moore boys were nephews of Grand-father. Billy later operated a store in La Veta. He passed on while living in San Diego, California. Ben passed on at Crested Butte, Colorado, and Berry passed on also in Colorado. The mill he mentioned was no doubt the grist mill on the Verdigris in Coffeyville. One of the documents he left was a contract with some one to run the mill on shares. During the year, 1878, the year after this letter was written, the family moved to Larned, Kansas, and while there Grand-father acquired some railroad script granting him 640 acres of unappropriated Texas state land. Xerox copy of the script is shown elsewhere. It was never used.

The financial panic that swept the country during the year 1875 was one of the worst the nation ever experienced. Grand-father realized that railroad expansion would make available markets for beef in Colorado where the mining of gold and silver and lead was furnishing hard money needed by the rest of the country.

Quoting my Mother's letter ----

"In 1878, we moved to Larned, and my Father had a store there. His partner was Oliver Marsh. They dealt in real-estate and cattle, and also had a large store in Mead County".

Jones and Plummer were trailing herds from their ranch at Tuscosa in the Texas Panhandle by way of Beaver City in Oklahoma Territory, then up Crooked Creek to Dodge City. During the year 1876, 9,540 head of cattle were shipped from Dodge. During the year 1877 there were 23,000 shipped. From Dodge cattle were herded to Julesburg and shipped over the Union Pacific to California. A new crop of settlers were stringing barbed wire across the prairies to fence 160 acres of government land and five years to pay for it.

Marsh and Grand-father dissolved their business at Larned, and Grand-father moved the family to Dodge City. Quoting my Mother's letter ----

"He had a wholesale business as well as a retail store in Dodge City, and loaded wagon trains for the Panhandle. He intended starting a town in Texas Panhandle but did not live to accomplish this."

Associated with Grand-father in his mercantile business at Dodge were his son Eben and also there were Louis McIntire, George Emerson and Thomas Murdock who became son-in-laws. They were fine young men, sons of prominent eastern families. They heeded Horace Greeley's advice -- "Go West, Young men, Go West." They helped Grand-father's girls bring up fine families, but that is another story.

Much could be written about our pioneer grand-mother who kept pace with our Grand-father and carried on, rearing a fine family almost single-handed, and who upon his demise carried on his pioneer spirit, even going to live with her son and family in "The Strip", known as "No Man's Land", which they helped to develop, bringing law and order, also culture in the way of good

Uncle Ebbie, like my Mother, would sometimes stop what he was doing and took time to relate interesting stories. One time when he went with Grand-father, they arrived at the Indian village in time for supper with an Osage chief, and rations were low, so the chief sent an Indian girl horseback to the commissary. Of course the Indian girls at that time wore no undies, and she returned on the horse, bareback, astride a slab of bacon. He said he was not hungry that evening. Another time Uncle Ebbie and Grand-father arrived at the Indian village in time for breakfast. As was the custom, a board was strapped to the back of an Indian boy papoose and there was an opening in the swaddling clothes for sanitary purposes. The Indian boy was placed close to the breakfast being served on a blanket on the floor of the lodge, and he had an urge and without restraint he spoiled the breakfast, that is he spoiled the breakfast for Uncle Ebbie.

THE INDIAN SCHOOL AND THE 'INDIAN HERALD'

When my father, Johnny Moore, first came to Coffeyville, he had a government contract to build houses for the Indians. On moving to a new location, Black Dog, one of the Osage chiefs, rode up with some of his tribesmen, and he clubbed my Dad's lead team over the head with his gun, and my Dad took the hint and he and his outfit left.

The government built a large school building for the Indian children (picture elsewhere) and here was the home of my parents when they were first married, my Dad was one of the carpenters. Living quarters in the agency were limited, and Agent Gibson, Doc Dougan and other officials lived there also.

Another item of my Mother's collection was the INDIAN HERALD, a pamphlet published in the agency, and was dated January 29th, 1876, Volume 1, Number 8, from which I quote ----

"Three years ago this spring the Agency was located here and in looking over the work accomplished in that space of time it seems almost incredible, and especially so when we consider that the work is civilization of the Osages. In the spring of 1872, the traveler would have seen unbroken prairie. ---- We now find a village (Pawhuska) containing stores, flowering mills, wagon shops, a magnificent school house ---- which has an attendance of over eighty children, mostly full bloods, and under the charge of Benjamin Miles."

Also there was related about the "remnant" of the Sac and Fox tribe being escorted by a Sergeant's guard of U.S. Infantry, from their last reservation in Kansas to a new location in the Territory. This was the tribe of which Black Hawk was chief that engaged Great-grand-father Rev. Achilles Coffey and Abraham Lincoln in the Black Hawk War.

The following is a letter loaned to me by my cousin Oscar Coffey and Mary.

OFFICE OF
BARON, BARNOLLAR & CO., GROCERS
Coffeyville, Kansas, Nov. 2nd, 1877.

Dear Son Eddy

I have just received a letter from you and am glad to hear from you. We have just moved up to the farm but Mary and Amy. I have a deed from the Moore boys for their land. I paid them \$1,000.00 in cash and Billy and Ben have gone to New Mexico. Berry aims to go in the spring. I swapped your mare for a fine mule. I think we will start the mill to run this week; I think it will do well. I would have sent you some money before this time but I have collected nothing only what I discounted to pay the Moore boys, but I learn the Agent has some money and is paying so I think I will get settled up soon. I aim to go to the

C.C. Drake in his book related that Will Rogers in his early years spent considerable time in Coffeyville where the family did some trading; and the following is from a letter written by Mr. Rogers ----

"Harry Sinclair, the big oil millionaire used to live in Coffeyville and had a tremendous oil refinery that employed hundreds of men."

Most likely it was Sinclair's refinery that was located on the Coffey farm. One of Sinclair's first business ventures was a drug store in Coffeyville and he built a fine home there.

The Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad Company was in time built to Coffeyville and for a while transported lots of cattle; but Coffeyville was as far as the road was built. It lost out in its race with the "Katy" (Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad) to be the first to reach the Indian Territory line and so be granted right-of-way to Texas. It was "neck and neck" but the L. L. & G. had to build a bridge across Drum Creek which would take too much time so they skipped the bridge and with some ties and rails were the first to build across the Territory line, but of course the "Katy" was too smart for that trick. The L. L. & G. career was questionable and was the victim of the 1875 financial panic, and during its last years it was known as "The Lousy, Lazy and Greasy".

My mother kept a scrap book containing many newspaper items among which was the following ----

"Col. Coffey was coming down south of the river to drive a herd of cattle at the time he was about 35 years of age, a fine looking man and had the appearance of being a gentleman which he proved to be."

THE OSAGE AGENCY

Besides Coffeyville, Grand-father's main interest was in the Osage Agency where he and A.B. Canville had a store and a grist mill known as the River Mills. The following is quoted from C.C. Drake's book --- WHOS WHO IN COFFEYVILLE AND VICINITY, Page 127 ----

"A treaty between the United States and the Great and Little Osages was concluded Sept. 29th, 1865, ratified and with amendments July 25th, 1866 ----- Andrew Jackson was President of the United States and White Hair and Little Bear were the outstanding Osage chiefs. Article 5 of the treaty contains this interesting provision; 'The Osages being desirous of paying their just debts to James A. Coffey and A.B. Canville (owners and operators of trading posts on the Osage Reservation) for advances in provisions, clothing and other necessities of life, hereby agree that the superintendent of Indian affairs for the southern superintendency, and the agent of the tribes shall examine all claims against said tribes and submit the same to the Secretary of Interior, they may issue to the claimants script for the claims thus allowed, which shall be receivable in cash payment for any of the lands sold in trust for (Coffey and Canville) persons, provided the aggregate amount thus allowed does not exceed \$5,000.00."

During those early days, diversion for the children was limited, and Grand-father often took one or two of them with him when he went to the Agency. At that time he used a "buckboard", a one seated vehicle that had a floor made of hickory slats which were supple and took the place of springs. At one of these trips he took my Mother, the Caney Creek was flooded and of course at that time there was no bridge and the team had to swim. Grand-father got into the stream to steady the vehicle until they reached the shore. That night she slept with an Indian girl, and during the night, the Indian girl ate a sack of nuts my Mother had brought with her.

We are proud of our grand-parents and I feel their character is so well expressed in verse by Walt Whitman ----

O you youths, Western youths,
So impatient, full of action, full of manly pride and friendship
Plain I see you, Western youths, see you tramping the foremost,
Pioneer, O Pioneer.

We detachments steady throwing,
Down the edges, through the passes, up the mountain steep,
Conquering, holding, daring, venturing, as we go unknown says,
Pioneer, O Pioneer.

So many interesting incidents can be told about our pioneer relatives, many of which we experienced beginning about the year 1889. When we get around to it, we will write it up for you to add to your Coffey Clan booklet. BLANCHE and FRANK

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

- 101 The Coffe Tree, naming "SEVEN GENERATIONS OF COFFEES".
- 102 A typed copy of a photostat -- THE NAME AND FAMILY OF COFFEY OR COFFEE, sent to me by Mr. John L. Coffey, 2017 NE 98th St., R.R. # 1, Box 96, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73111.
- 103 A pamphlet -- COFFEY FAMILY EARLY HISTORY page A; Coffey family genealogy, Page B; research Page C; written by Dr. Laurence H. Coffey, Lenoir, N.C.; sent to me by Mr. McBride, he located in the Tennessee State Library.
- 104 A chart, sent to me by Mr. John L. Coffey of Oklahoma City which was very helpful in working out "The Coffey Tree", No. 101 above.
- 105 A letter from Mrs. Margaret Price, Genealogy Reference Librarian of the North Carolina State Library. The DAR Index attached shows that the "first" James did patriotic service in the American Revolution.
- 106 Xerox copies of three payments and a voucher the State of North Carolina Department of Archives and History located in the "Revolutionary Army Accounts" which shows that the "first" James was paid for service in the American Revolution.
- 107 Several letters from Mr. Robert M. McBride, Recording Secretary of the Tennessee Historical Society, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 108 Xerox copies of pages 108A, 108B, 108C and 108D of the Coffee-Cleveland papers Mr. McBride located in the Tennessee State Library, information contributed by the Coffey and Cleveland families. You will note that Asberry Madison Coffey it was erroneously claimed that "Coffeyville, Kansas was named for him".
- 109 Xerox copies of the original records of the County Court of Wayne County, Kentucky, dated August 28th, 1832, which was a petition for a pension as a soldier of the American Revolution made by Reuben Coffey, son of the "first" James Coffey. This was sent by the Department of Archives and History, Washington, D.C.
- 110 A report made by the Illinois State Historical Library as to Mr. Shelby Moore Cullom, governor of Illinois, mentioned in letter written by great grand-father, Rev. Achilles Coffey.
- 111 Xerox Copy of the biography of great grand-father, Rev. Achilles Coffey as given in his book -- A HISTORY OF THE REGULAR BAPTISTS. The information given was used for that part of my story about the "second" James, father of Rev. Achilles Coffey.
- 112 Xerox copy of a letter written by our great grand-father, Rev. Achilles Coffey giving the family history as he knew it. This letter was my inspiration to write a history of the Coffey family.
- 113 Xerox copy of the biography of our grand-father, Col. James A. Coffey, printed in the United States Biographical Dictionary, 1879.
- 114 A letter written by my mother, Irene Ann Moore, directed to Mrs. Earl Moulder, founder of the Jane Dean Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Coffeyville, Kansas. The letter is very valuable as it gives a very complete account of the career of her father and the Coffey family. Mother took a lot of interest in collecting books, letters, news-paper reports and many other contribution; pictures etc.
- 115 The book --- HISTORY OF THE EARLY BAPTISTS, written by great grand-father, Rev. Achilles Coffey. Included is his picture and a brief account of his life history.
- 116 A list of deeds and other documents; a grant deed for 160 acres from the United States to grand-mother, Louisa Coffey, which she homesteaded; was issued Feb. 25th, 1885, Chester A. Arthur, President.
- 117 A map locating grand-father's different posts and other mercantile establishments in Kansas and Indian Territory.
- 118 A reproduction of a Title Bond between the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad Company and J.A. Coffey.

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

- 119 Xerox copies of several pages of C.C. Drake's book -- WHO'S WHO IN COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS AND VICINITY -- 119A, 119B, 119C and 119D. Drake dedicated the book to our grand-father.
- 120 Xerox copy of a brochure --COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS, giving a short history of Coffeyville. Sent by Oscar Coffey.
- 121 Newspaper clippings -- OLDEST FINE HOME IN COFFEYVILLE, and also THE REST OF THE STORY, and there is a description of Col. Coffey when he was about thirty five years old, and that he gave a twenty dollar bill for the townsite of Humboldt.
- 122 Reproduction of a document -- LAND SCRIPT, granting 640 acres of unappropriated land anywhere in the State of Texas, which the Dallas and Wichita Railroad Company sold for funds to build their railroad. The script was bought by grand-father while he was living at Larned, and which he would have used if he had been spared a few more years.
- 123 Xerox copies of several pages of the INDIAN HERALD published at the Osage Agency while my parents were living there. Was part of my mother's collection. A subsequent edition was published by Uncle Louis McIntire. Aunt Mary taught school there.
- 124 The book -- STORY OF KANSAS, published by the State of Kansas.
- 125 The book -- BLEEDING KANSAS, written by Alice Nichols.
- 126 And most important -- the many stories told by my mother and by my Uncle Ebbie which has added much interest to this story.

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THE SEVEN COFFEYS

- I (Christian name unknown) -- Coffey married (Christian name unknown) Came to America from Ireland, settled in Essex County, Virginia about the year 1690.
ISSUE: Elizabeth, JOHN, Patsy, Anister, Edward.
References: John L. Coffey's genealogy; ① Dr. L. H. Coffey, Page I. ②
- II JOHN COFFEY: Married Jane Graves, came to Essex County, Virginia; Died in Albemarle County, Virginia, Jan or Feb. 1775; they came from Ireland.
ISSUE: JAMES, Thomas, Edward, Reuben, Benjamin, William, Winnefred, Elizabeth.
References: John L. Coffey genealogy, ① Dr. L. H. Coffey genealogy. ②
- III The 'first' JAMES COFFEY, 1726-1813, married Elizabeth Cleveland. He was born in Ireland.
ISSUE: John, ACHILLES, Reuben, Betsy, Ambrose, James, Eli, Lewis, Rice, Joel and Elizabeth.
References: Coffey-Cleveland MS, ③ John L. Coffey's chart. ①
- IV The 'first' ACHILLES COFFEY, married Elon Wald, died about 1778. Spent most of his life in Wilkes County, North Carolina.
ISSUE: John W., Hezikia, Bally and JAMES.
References: Rev. Achilles Coffey's letter, ④ John L. Coffey's chart. ①
- V The 'second' JAMES COFFEY, married daughter of Thomas Lane; Lived in North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana. Born 1773, died 1863.
ISSUE: Lewis, Eli, ACHILLES, John, Tommie, James Wesley.
References: Rev. Achilles Coffey's letter, ④ John L. Coffey's chart. ①
- VI The 'second' ACHILLES COFFEY, Great grand-father, Rev. Achilles Coffey. Married Jane Dean, Capt. in the Black Hawk War, Baptist minister, lived most of life in Illinois. Born July 1806 -- died Mar. 10, 1883.
ISSUE: JAMES A., Sales (a bachelor), Lawrence Lesenby, John McClearnan, Permelia.
References: John L. Coffey's chart, ① Biography of James A. Coffey. ⑤
- VII The 'third' JAMES COFFEY, Grand-father, Col. James A. Coffey, born Nov. 18th, 1827; Died Jan. 13th, 1879.
Married: Louisa Adelaide Ferris Long Carnahan.
ISSUE: Mary, Eben, Irena, Amy, Laura, Lizzie and Lulu.
Reference; Letter by Irena A. Moore. ⑥

All References are to Bibliography Numbers ---

1. 104 Page 50
2. 103 Page 47
3. 108 Page 60
4. 112 Page 67
5. 113 Page 69
6. 114 Page 71

BIBLIOGRAPHY -- 102-A
THE NAME AND FAMILY OF COFFEY OR COFFEE

The name of COFFEY or COFFEE is of Irish origin and was originally O'Cobthaidh or O'Coffey, meaning "of the family of Cobthaidh", Cobthaidh itself being derived from the Irish Cobthach, meaning "victorious". It is found in ancient records in the various spellings of O'Cobthaidh, O'Cobthalg, O'Cowhig, O'Cobthach, O'Caughey, O'Coffey, Caughey, Coffee, Coffy, and Coffey, of which the form last-mentioned is the most generally accepted in America today, while several of the others are also frequently used.

Family historians state that the family traces its descent from one Cobthach or Cobthaidh Fionn (meaning "the fair-haired victor"), who was living in County Cork, Ireland, about the beginning of the eighth century A.D. He was the father of Donoch Mor, father of Donall Mor, father of Macraith, father of Conchobar or Conor, who had Maghnus or Malghness, father of Conor, father of Maithan Dall, who had Cobthach, father of Dermod, who had Fergal, father of Donach, father of Aodh or Hugh, father of Maghnus, father of Conor, father of Niocholl, who had two sons, Teige and Niocholl. Of these sons, the first was the father of Olliol, father of Dermod, who had Donald, father of Magnus, who had Cobthach, father of Conor, who had Maolpadraid, father of Ceann-failla, who had a son named Hugh, who had Cumuhan, father of Muircadach, who had Cathal or Charles, father of Donall, father of Brien, father of Murtoch, who had Crimthann, father of Saortuile, who had Nicholl, father of Hugh. This last mentioned Hugh had a son Charles, who was the father of Donoch, father of Feilm, father of Tiege, father of Charles, who had Donall, who had Hugh, who had Cormac, father of Hugh, father of Charles, who was the father in the early seventeenth century of a son named Tiege.

This last-mentioned Teige O'Coffey was the father of Shane, who had a son named Dermod or Darby, who was the father of a son named Edmond, who had three sons, William, Edmond and John. Of these, the second son was the father in the early nineteenth century of a son named Edward Lees Coffey, who came to America at an early age and is believed to have been the father here of a large family. This last-mentioned Edward also had four brothers, James, John, David and Henry. These families appear for the most part, to have been of the landed gentry and yeomanry of the British Isles.

Although it is not entirely clear from which of the many lines of the family in England and Ireland the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, it is generally believed that most, if not all, of the Coffeys and Coffees derive from a common ancestor of a remote period.

The first of the name in America is believed to have been John Coffee, who emigrated in the year 1637 and settled in Elizabeth City County, Virginia. No complete record, however, of his immediate family or descendants has been found.

In the latter part of the seventeenth century one Coffey (Christian name unknown) came from Ireland to Essex County, Virginia, where he was probably the father of John, Elizabeth, Patsy, Anlater and Edward. Of these children,

John married Jane Graves, by whom he was the father in the early eighteenth century of James, John, Edward, Thomas, Reuben, Benjamin, Elizabeth and Winnefred.

About 1750 the brothers Peter and Joshua Coffee or Coffey came from Ireland to Prince Edward County, Virginia. Of these Peter was the father of a son named John, who made his home in Georgia, and Joshua also had a son named John, who, however, resided in Tennessee. Both of these Johns were officers in the Revolution and the latter, being an intimate friend of General Jackson, named his eldest son, Andrew Jackson Coffee. The immigrant Peter appears to have had issue, besides the son John of Georgia before mentioned, of Elizabeth, Nancy, Susannah, Sarah, Joshua, Mary, Cynthia and Martha.

Sometime before the year 1786 John Coffey, a Quaker, was living in Campbell County, Virginia. By his wife Rachel, he was the father of five children, William, John, Joseph, Rachel and Mary.

Numerous others of the name emigrated to America in the following century, among whom were probably the parents of Isaac V. Coffey, who appears to have been of Scotch and Welsh descent and was born in Ohio in 1828 and married Catherine Parthemer in Pennsylvania in the year 1853; and Arthur Coffey, who came from Leinster, Ireland, to Charleston, West Virginia, in the latter half of the nineteenth century and was the father by his wife, Isabell Coutts (said to have been of Scotch ancestry), of numerous children.

More recent representatives of these and probably other lines of the family in America have removed to many parts of the United States and have contributed as much to the advancement of American civilization as their progenitors did to its first establishment on this continent. Characterized on the whole by physical vitality, power of will, fearlessness, and intellectual ability, they have been successful in various fields of endeavor.

Among those of the name who fought in the War of the Revolution were Samuel, Ambrose, Asborne or Osborne, Reuben, and Ogburn of Virginia alone, and numerous others, including those already mentioned, from the various other states.

Hugh, Charles, William, Edmond, Edward, David, John, Thomas, James, Joshua, Samuel, and Joseph are some of the Christian names most favored by the family for its male progeny.

A few of the members of the family who have distinguished themselves in America in more recent times are the following:

Harry Buffington Coffee (b. 1890), of Nebraska, Congressman

Edward Hope Coffey Jr. (b. 1896), of New York, writer.

Erval Richard Coffey (b. 1896), of Missouri, director of health of the State of Washington.

James V. Coffey (b. 1879), of New York, lawyer.

Walter Castella Coffey (b. 1877), of Indiana, animal husbandman and writer on agricultural subjects.

Wilford Lorn Coffey (b. 1879), of Michigan, educator.

BIBLIOGRAPHY -- 102-C

One of the most ancient and most frequently used of the coats of arms of the Coffy or Coffey family of Ireland is that described as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884):

Arms ---- "Vert, a fess ermine, between three coons or Irish cups or."

Crest --- "A man riding on a dolphin proper."

Motto --- "Non providentia sed victoria."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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O'Hart. Irish Pedigrees. 1915.

Greer. Early Virginia Immigrants. 1912.

Harris. Harris Family. 1911.

Bell. Our Quaker Friends, 1905.

Parthemore. Genealogy of the Parthemore Family. 1885.

Laidley. History of Charleston, W. Va. 1911.

Virginia Revolutionary Soldiers. 1912.

Burke. General Armory. 1884.

Sent by Mr. Robert M. McBride

COFFEY FAMILY EARLY HISTORY

By: Dr. Laurence H. Coffey

At this date (1931) it is found very difficult to write anything like a connected history of the Coffey family. Such scraps of history as we have been able to gather are printed here. If readers of this book know of any incidents not given here they will please write same to Dr. L. H. Coffey, Lenoir, North Carolina. Please call attention to any inaccuracies that may be found. It is our wish that no one should feel neglected if the history of his particular family is not found here. All the facts that we have been able to gather are printed here. There has been no intention to leave out any history that we have available.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF
THOMAS COFFEY AND FAMILY

According to the best information available, the father of John Coffey, who was also the grandfather of Thomas Coffey, originally went from Ireland to Liverpool; then to Essex County, Virginia, about the year 1690.

The record states that Thomas Coffey was born March 7, 1742, in Essex County, Virginia. He must have been an infant when removed from that county, as the record of Essex County, Book No. 23, page 276, shows that John Coffey and wife Jane of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, sold the old homestead located at St. Anne's Parish in Essex County, Virginia, specifying all houses, orchards, meadows, pastures, et cetera, to Silvanus Allen, on July 15, 1745; and Book No. 24, page 130, recites that on June 15, 1747, they sold the remainder of the same farm to John Garnett. St. Anne's Parish is the next parish north of South Farnham Parish in which the town of Tappahannock is situated. The old original Episcopal Church (abandoned about 1760), of St. Anne's Parish, stood about two miles west of the village of Occupacia, and it seems that the old Coffey homestead was in that immediate neighborhood, as the calls of the deeds mention the land lines of William Taylor, William Ballard, Stephen Chenault, Thomas Waring, and John Garnett. We are informed by old settlers that the Taylors, Warings, and Ballards lived in that vicinity. In Spotsylvania, we could find no record that the Coffeys had lived in that county, as their court house records were burned during the Civil War.

Thomas Coffey's children by his first wife, Elizabeth (Smith), were born in Virginia, and after the death of Elizabeth, he, together with these six children and his second wife, Sarah (Fields), moved to Wilkes County, North Carolina, sometime between 1775 and 1780 and settled

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FINDINGS OF L. H. COFFEY IN VIRGINIA

In the Clerk's office (A. D. Latine) of Essex County, Virginia, at Tappahannock, I discovered that while the records extend back to 1640, about twelve of the deed record books were not listed in the general index, so I did not examine half of these books page by page. I found no record in Will Book of Coffeys, Fields, or Graves, but in Deed Book 23, page 276, dated July 15, 1745, is recorded: "John Coffey and wife, Jane Coffey, of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, to Silvanus Allen, of Essex County, Virginia, in consideration of 25 pounds current money, a parcel of land lying and being in the County of Essex and Parish of St. Anne containing 100 acres, being part of a tract of 200 acres formerly called by name of Noveley's Quarter, and bounded, viz.: beginning at a corner oak and maple in a branch of Gilsom's run, and running thence N-W 126 poles to a stake, a corner between the sd. land and the land of William Ballard, thence N-E 132 poles to a corner red oak sapling standing by the plantation of Stephen Chenault, thence along a now-made line S-E 126 poles to a hickory in the line of John Garnett, then along his line and the line of William Taylor S-W 132 poles to the beginning, together with all houses, woods, and under woods.

Witnesses:

John Garnett
William Duling
William ChenaultJOHN COFFEY [Seal]
JANE COFFEY [Seal]

Also in Deed Book 24, page 130, dated June 15, 1747. Deed recorded: John Coffey and wife, Jane Coffey, of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, to John Garnett of Essex County, Virginia, consideration 30 pounds current money of Virginia: 100 acres more or less being in Essex County

TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY

Sent by: Mr. Robert M. McBride

COFFEY GENEALOGY

By Dr. Laurence H. Coffey

1

— Coffey:

1. John
2. Elizabeth
3. Patsy
4. Anister
5. Edward

— COFFEY and Wife, —
 married Jane Graves (1)
 John Cleveland
 Joshua Stapp
 — Shenalt
 Grace Cleveland

1 2

— Coffey: John (1)

JOHN COFFEY and Wife, JANE (GRAVES) (p. 1)

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|--|
| 1. James | married | Elizabeth Cleveland |
| 2. John | | 1st, Dorcas Carter; 2d, Nancy Richardson |
| 3. Edward | | Nancy Shenalt |
| 4. Thomas | | 1st, Eliza Smith (1); 2d, Sally Fields (1) |
| 5. Reuben | | Sally Scott |
| 6. Benjamin | | Polly Hayes |
| 7. William | | Elizabeth Ausborne |
| 8. Elizabeth | | Thomas Fields |
| 9. Winnefred | | Nicholas Moran |

1 2 3

— Coffey: John (1): Thomas (4):

THOMAS COFFEY and First Wife, ELIZABETH (SMITH) (p. 1)

- | | | |
|------------|--|--|
| 1. Betsy | married | David Allen (2) |
| 2. John | | Hannah Wilson (2) |
| 3. Thomas | | 1st, — Coffey (2); 2d, Nancy Pendley (2) |
| 4. James | | Delilah Ferguson (2) |
| 5. Polly | | William Coffey (3) |
| 6. Smith | | Hannah Boone (3) |
| | — and Second Wife, SALLY (FIELDS) (p. 1) | |
| 7. Martha | married | James Dowell (3) |
| 8. William | | Annie Boone (3) |
| 9. Reuben | | Polly Dowell (4) |
| 10. Elijah | | Polly Hull (4) |
| 11. Sally | | Samuel Stewart (4) |
| 12. Jesse | | (died single) |

.1

COFFEY FAMILY EARLY HISTORY
By: Dr. Laurence H. Coffey
AND HIS DESCENDANTS

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As to land entries, I mentioned above the entry by Reuben Coffey of 50 acres in Ashe County. I also found:

	No.	Acres	Date	Entered	Book	Page
Austin Coffey.....	3062	100	Dec. 29, 1827	1825	37	261
Benjamin Coffey.....	1902	88	Nov. 30, 1801	1799	111	364
Benjamin Coffey.....	1584	45	Dec. 24, 1798	1799	99	91
Benjamin Coffey.....	1543	50	Dec. 13, 1798	1794	99	74
Elijah Coffey.....	3244	50	Dec. 12, 1831	1829	139	336
James Coffey.....	231	200	Oct. 23, 1782	1782	49	73
James Coffey, Sr.....	582	300	Nov. 9, 1784	1782	57	205
McCaleb Coffey.....	3876	25	Dec. 7, 1838	1837	145	40
McCaleb Coffey.....	3876	20	Dec. 4, 1840	1838	146	352
Thomas Coffey, Sr....	1941	50 ¹	Nov. 30, 1801	1800	111	377
Thomas Coffey, Sr....	2621	50	Dec. 7, 1814	1812	128	462
Thomas Coffey, Jr....	2617	50	Dec. 7, 1814	1812	128	461
Thomas Coffey.....	561	25 ¹	Nov. 9, 1784	1782	57	197
Thomas Coffey.....	478	100	Nov. 9, 1784	1781	57	167
William Coffey.....	2341	50 ²	Nov. 28, 1808	1805	123	350

I suppose these are duplicates of the matter on record in Wilkes County, as these are all listed as being in Wilkes County. I know there are hundreds of acres listed at Wilkesboro to McCaleb Coffey not given here. This is why I think the above is only partial.

I went to the old William Coffey and George Dowell burying ground on Mulberry. I found no record on Dowell stones. Here is a record on William Coffey: "Born Nov. 29, 1782; Died May 15, 1839," and of his wife: "Anna, wife of William Coffey, Born July 26, 1785; Died Jan. 16, 1876." So of Thomas Coffey's children we have birth and death records of five, as follows:

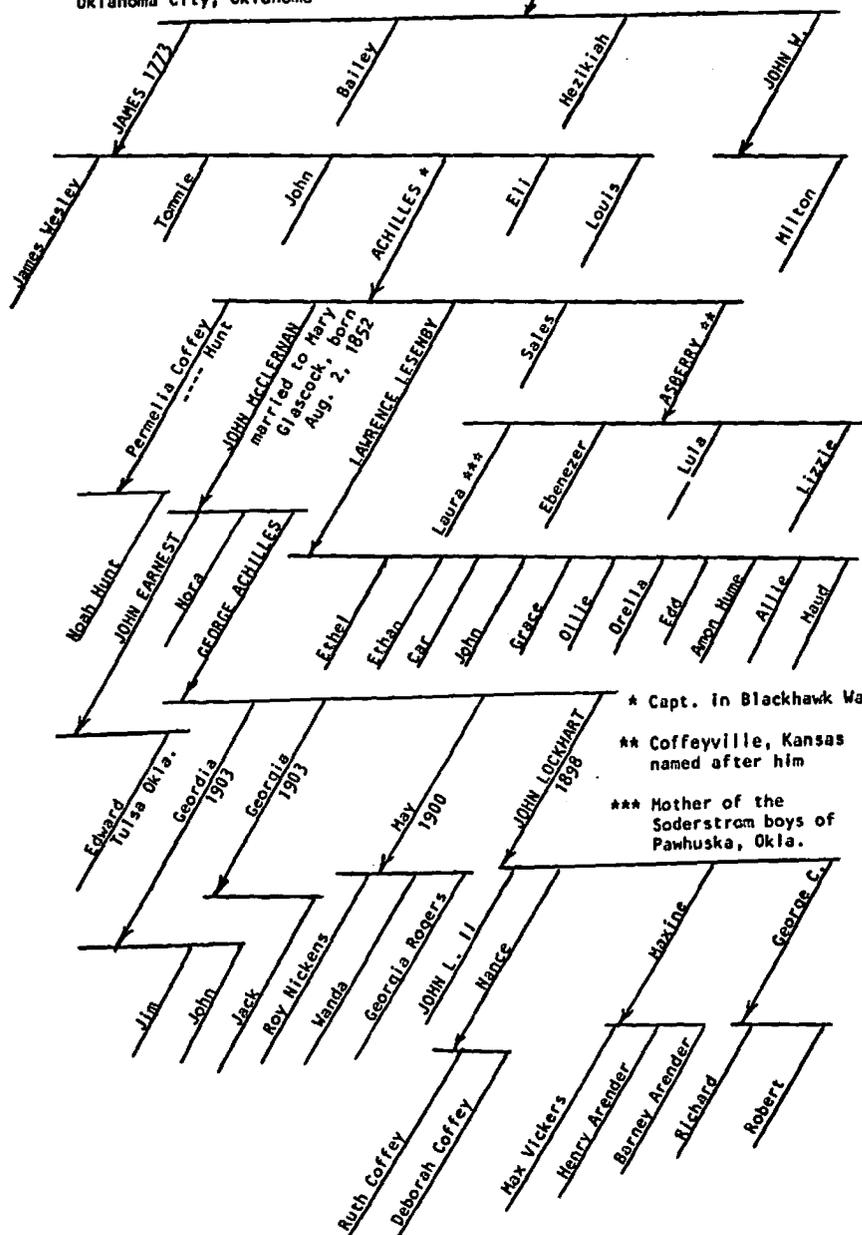
William, 1782-1839; Reuben, 1785-1854; Elijah, 1788-1865; Larkin, 1800-1881; McCaleb, 1803-1881.

Of Thomas Coffey's father John's family we have births of four and deaths of two:

James, 1728-1786; Thomas, 1742-1825; Reuben, 1759—; Benjamin, 1747-about 1883.

As John Coffey made his will on March 31, 1774, and his executors were qualified in the Albermarle court March, 1775, he evidently died in January or February, 1775.

¹ On Yadkin. ² On Davenport Creek.



* Capt. in Blackhawk War
 ** Coffeyville, Kansas named after him
 *** Mother of the Soderstrom boys of Pawhuska, Okla.

Editor's note, Second Edition: There are some obvious discrepancies in this chart, but this is a replica of the one shown in the original. (Gene Brewington --- 1981)



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June 7, 1968

Mr. Frank R. Moore
432 Holly Street
Laguna Beach, California, 92651

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have received your letter of May 30.

I did not find the name of a James Coffey in the only Roster which we have of North Carolina Soldiers in the American Revolution.

I am enclosing a xerox copy of page 141 of the DAR PATRIOT INDEX. This is an index of the persons on whose Revolutionary record someone has joined the DAR. You will note that after the name of James Coffey who married Elizabeth Cleveland the initials "PS" precede "NC." The "PS" stands for patriotic service and patriotic service during the Revolution constitutes eligibility for DAR membership.

I think this reference proves that your James Coffey did not have active military service during the Revolutionary War.

In the Department of Archives and History there are records called Revolutionary Army Accounts which consist of cancelled pay vouchers which were paid to persons for both military and non-military service. I believe these vouchers state the nature of service rendered.

I would suggest that you write to the Archives asking for a photostatic copy of any pay voucher which might be recorded in these Accounts made payable to a James Coffey. I feel sure that such a voucher would indicate the nature of his patriotic service.

I am returning the check which you enclosed in your letter for there is no charge for either the xerox copy or the research.

Yours very truly,

MEP:jg
Enclosures: (2)

Mrs. Margaret B. Price
Genealogy Reference Librarian

OAR Patriot Index

COCKERM,
Wm b 1747 d 3 14 1787 m Elizabeth Green Pvt NJ

COCKERHAM,
Wm Wash b 1761 d 4 1811 m Elizabeth Evans Street 121Mary
Eves PS VA

COCKREY,
Edward b 12 20 1731 d 2 1 1795 m Eleanor Purdon Col MD
John b 6 24 1743 d 2 8 1808 m Chas Cromwell Capt PS MD
Thomas b 4 15 1754 d 11 10 1813 m Ruth Brown 211 PS MD

COCKREY,
John b 2 14 1758 d 21 1847 m Dorcas Pvt NY *
John d 7 30 1741 d 23 1823 m Elizabeth Whitman Sol PA
John d 2 11 1742 d 7 5 1801 m Frances Draker Pvt PA

COCKRELL (includes **COCKRELL**, **COCKRELLS**)
Ann Robertson Johnson b 7 10 1757 d 10 13 1821 m John Cook
m PS NC
Joseph b c 1761 d 6 30 1815 m Jemimah Elizabeth Rhoads
Pvt SC
Joseph b 1733 d 10 6 1807 m Elizabeth - PS VA
John Jr b 12 19 1757 d 4 11 1837 m Ann (Robertson) Johnson
Noncom CO
Joshua Helms b c 1760 d 3 3 1812 m (Mrs) Sally Marcum Gd
(2) Mrs Mary Rans (3) Sally Soligo Pvt VA
Isaac b c 1745 50 d 1813 m Elizabeth Tracey Pvt VA
Moses b c 1725 d 1738 m Jane - PS SC
Peter b 1758 d 1834 m Sarah Smithers Pvt VA*
Samuel b 1760 d 7 9 1842 m Amelia Lucas Pvt VA
Wm b 12 13 1756 d 1820 m Rebecca Brown Pvt SC*

CODDING,
Benjamin b 20 1757 d 2 14 1839 m Sarah Pence Pvt MA
Elisha b c 1742 d 8 23 1784 m Anna Williams PA MA
George Sr b 1709 d 4 20 1794 m Elizabeth Luscumb PS MA
George Jr b 1734 d 2 28 1816 m Sarah Thayer Pvt NY
James b 9 29 1755 d 10 2 1836 m Joanna Edly Col MA
John b 1763 d 1 21 1813 m Nancy Trifton MM RI
Samuel b 4 3 1758 d 11 29 1821 m Sarah Hill Sgt MA
Samuel 2nd b 10 11 1742 d 12 7 1812 m Mercy Cobb Pvt MA

CODDINGTON (includes **CORRINGTON**)
Archibald b 1756 d 4 19 1827 m Mary Coon Pvt NY
Benjamin b 1756 d 8 28 1836 m Hannah Coon Pvt NJ
Benjamin b 11 10 1759 d 6 12 1821 m Anna Crane Pvt Sh
NJ *
Benjamin b 10 8 1781 d 1848 m Mary Denton Pvt NY
David b 1730 d 1787 m Anna Stone Pvt NJ
James b 1754 d 3 21 1816 m Experience Insite Randolph Pvt NJ
John b 8 17 1761 d 8 20 1844 m Mary Coon Pvt NJ*
Joseph b 1754 d 2 10 1806 m Elizabeth Insite Pvt NJ
Robert b 10 6 1760 d 8 15 1823 m Margaret Insite Pvt NJ W *
Wm b 7 11 1754 d 1835 m Mary Vincent Pvt NY

CODILL (includes **CAUBILL**)
James b 1753 d 5 30 1840 m X Pvt NC *
Stephen b 1763 d 7 26 1828 m Sarah Adams Pvt NC

CODMAN,
Henry b 1743 d 3 1812 m Agnes - Dr NH
Richard b 6 23 1730 d 8 12 1793 m William Jones (2) Sarah Smith
Pvt MA
Wm b 5 13 1750 d 11 9 1813 m (1) Sarah Marie Abbott (2) Phoebe
- PS NH

CODWELL,
George b 1732 d 10 10 1814 m Mary Van Ruest Sol NY

COEY (includes **COADY**)
Nathl b 5 10 1733 d 3 20 1827 m Martha Cayl Pvt MA
James b c 1718 d 1795 m Sarah Womack Sol NC
John b 17 1755 d 6 16 1828 m Mary Chamberlain Sgt MA W*
Joseph b 5 2 1736 d 10 10 1787 m Mary Parmenter Lt CS MA
Nathan b 7 14 1721 d 11 24 1815 m Mary Tuttle Pvt CT
Samuel b 5 13 1780 d 5 17 1854 m Susanna Armstrong Col MA *

COE,
Aaron b 2 16 1731 d 10 20 1794 m (1) Phoebe Parsons (2) Mary
Seward Capt MA
Abel bn 7 20 1727 d 1 10 1798 m Prudence Rosester PS CT
Abner d 4 12 1763 d 8 15 1848 m (1) Mary Ledyard Pvt CT
Benjamin q 12 28 1736 d 10 14 1818 m Betha Grummon Mlt NJ
Benjamin b 8 11 1741 d 3 9 1821 m Phoebe Horton Capt NY
Benjamin b 11 13 1746 d 5 16 1831 m Sarah Johnson Capt NY
Benjamin Sr b 1705 d 1790 m Rachel Plunkton Pvt PA
Benjamin Jr q 11 6 1748 d 3 15 1833 m Margaret Bangler Lt PA
Benjamin b 5 2 1753 d 21 1818 m Sarah Simmons Capt RI
Charles b 7 12 1760 d 6 1817 m Hannah Bates Sol CT
Daniel b 11 26 1759 d 2 8 1823 m Sarah Matread Fro NY
Daniel b 2 18 1731 d 1762 m Sarah Palmer Pvt NY
Daniel S b 2 4 1753 d - m Abigail Saffin Pvt NY

David b 1 27 18 1716 d 5 14 1812 m Hannah F. Long, P. Lt
David b 1 27 1747 d 4 15 1816 m Elizabeth Miller Pvt I
David Thomas b 1 17 17 17 24 1828 m Sarah Platt Pvt MA
Elizabeth b 16 26 1751 d 6 18 1827 m Mary Matthews Pvt I
Thomas b 7 24 18 15 d 8 1 1821 m Sarah (Houghton) Babine Capt
LI

Elizabeth b 7 19 1754 d 1 28 1811 m Elizabeth Candler Sgt C10
Benjamin b 1736 d 1 25 1827 m Anne C. Jagger Lt PA *
Elijah b 1751 d 12 17 1811 m Ann (Houghton) PS Pvt MD
Elijah b 1743 d 1827 m Margaret Weston Pvt C10
Harrison b 3 20 1759 d 8 19 1832 m (2) Mary Ward Pvt NY
Isaac b 1 3 1746 d 1790 m Rachel Ann Post PS NY
Isaac Jr b 17 1756 d 9 21 1821 m Elizabeth Wright (2) Sarah
Candler Sgt MA

Isaac b 9 10 1755 d 8 26 1826 m Sarah Burt Pvt MA
James b 2 3 1741 d 7 31 1790 m Hannah Watson Pvt CT
James b 11 19 1740 d 10 3 1794 m Rachel Bennett Capt MA
Jeremiah b 9 3 1761 d 12 19 1827 m Anna Pvt C10
Joel b 5 17 1758 d 9 23 1848 m Hannah Bennett Pvt CT
John b 5 20 1757 d 12 18 1846 m Elias Johnson Pvt Tms C10
John b 18 1729 d 12 10 1783 m Hannah Chastant PS CT
John Sr b 12 7 1715 d 11 17 1787 m Hannah Hartill Pvt PS NY
John Jr b 28 1749 d 5 2 1839 m Mary Matfield Pvt NY *
John Daniel b 28 1755 d 3 18 1824 m Sarah Cool Pvt NY *
Jeremiah Sr b 2 1710 d 11 4 23 1795 m Elizabeth Elmer CS
PS CT

Jonathan Jr b 0 20 1742 d 8 1 1824 m (1) Anne Cook (2) Mrs
Sarah (Curtis) Mathew Sgt CT
Joseph b 3 18 1748 d 12 22 1824 m (1) Sarah Dent (2) Sarah
Spittman (3) Hannah Achley Oruce Pvt MA
Levi b 7 3 1760 d 2 28 1832 m (1) Deborah McColl (2) Hester Marsh
Pvt CT

Matthew D b 10 15 1757 d 12 12 1838 m Martha Gunnor Sol NY
Moses b 18 1750 d 3 28 1813 m Sarah Houghton Ben PA
Nathan b 9 3 1757 d 12 18 1846 m Elias Johnson Pvt Tms C10
Peter bn 1 21 1753 d 10 18 1836 m Mary (Sharon) Allen Sgt PA *
Philo b 1740 d 5 8 1818 m (1) Barbara Weston (2) Abigail Connor
Pvt NY
Phoebe b 1753 d 9 30 1822 m Rhonda Banning Pvt OM CT
Rhetal b 3 28 1740 d 1830 m Chas Threl Pvt CT
Robert (Benner) b 1755 d 1838 m Chapman Condon Sgt NY
Samuel b 8 5 1726 d 7 27 1790 m (1) Dinah m Anna (2) Hap
Mudart CS MA

Samuel b 3 20 1746 d 16 1831 m Deborah Church Lt RI
Samuel b 4 2 1760 d 1 20 1824 m Elizabeth Overman Onr Sgt NY
Seib b 12 21 1757 d 11 15 1839 m (1) Susan Mott (2) Sarah
Elmer (3) Dorcas Rice Pvt CT
Simon Sr b 3 22 1720 d 9 23 1782 m Anna Morris PS CT
Simeon Jr b 2 12 1755 d 10 25 1838 m (1) Anne Strong (2) Sarah
Coe PS CT
Thomas b 1758 d 7 7 1827 m Simeon Grinnard Pvt CT
Timothy b 9 16 1760 d 2 26 1841 m (1) Mary Hall (2) Abigail Bates
Pvt CT*

Wm b 11 18 1757 d 1834 m Mary Sears Col MD *
Wm b 2 17 1748 d 18 1814 m Sarah Elm Ins RI
Wm S b 1 29 1748 d 1828 m Martha Connely Pvt NY
Zachariah b 9 29 1732 d 8 8 1805 m Lucretia Nichols Capt CT

COFER (includes **COPFER**)
George b 9 1 1757 d 11 25 1830 m (1) Frances Dawson (2) Mrs
Mary A. Cobbs Col VA
John b 1760 d 1827 m Elizabeth Boone Sol NY
Wm b 1750 d 1819 m Mary Elizabeth Pvt VA

COFFER (includes **COFFREY**)
... b 4 5 1738 d 1785 m (1) Lucy Hale (2) Margaret Smith Capt
PS NH
Jesse b 2 28 1727 d 11 29 1802 m Susanna Goodman Capt PS
VI

Levi b 1756 d 5 1818 m Zeph Barthem Sgt MA
Meriah b 2 3 1753 d 1814 m Sarah Preston Pvt MA
Robert b 11 1 1764 d 1 1 1844 m (1) Elizabeth Morrell (2) Sarah
Gruver Pvt NH

COFFEY (includes **COFFEE**)
James b 1728 d 9 1 1865 m Elizabeth Cleveland PS NC
James b 8 17 1759 d 12 20 1836 m Mary Leazer Pvt PA
Joel b 1730 d 1789 m Martha Sealey PS NC
Joshua b 1 26 1745 d 8 8 1797 m Elizabeth Graves Capt NC
Nathan b 1780 d 1823 m Mary Saunders Pvt NC
Nathan b 7 29 1759 d 3 31 1840 m Mary Highingale Sgt VA *
Peter b c 1750 d 10 18 1803 m Sarah Smith Pvt MA
Reuben b 9 16 1759 d 9 24 1842 m Sally Scott Pvt NC *

COFFIELD,
John b 5 1751 d 3 1818 m Sarah Robson Pvt NC
John b c 1728 d 6 11 25 1787 m Elizabeth Hoopes Pvt NC

COFFIN,
Anne b 4 15 1737 d m Enoch Crawford Pvt NH
Alexander b 9 21 1740 d 2 1 1839 m Anne Banker Miss PA
Amos b 6 22 1723 d 5 18 1811 m Sarah Hook PS NH

State of North Carolina
Department of Archives and History



This certifies that the following information is recorded in a manuscript volume located in this Department titled "Revolutionary Army Accounts" (Volume VIII, Page 69, Folio 3):

Heading: To Sundries from Major Winstons Acct: Viz:

Date: 1776

Number: 1326

Name: James Coffy

Amount: 2 pounds, 15 shillings, specie

Other information: None

Raleigh, North Carolina

9 July, 1968.

Carl W. Allen
State Archivist

State of North Carolina
Department of Archives and History



This certifies that the following information is recorded in a manuscript volume located in this Department titled "Revolutionary Army Accounts" (Volume VII, Page 98, Folio 1):

Heading: [Certificates paid by the Treasurer to the Comptroller
July 1790.

Number: 1789

Name: James Coffee

Amount: 2 pounds, 14 shillings, principal; 15 shillings, interest

Other information: Rec^d of William Morrison. Sheriff of Burke

Raleigh, North Carolina

9 July, 1968.

J. W. Riker
State Archivist

State of North Carolina
Department of Archives and History



This certifies that the following information is recorded in a manuscript volume located in this Department titled "Revolutionary Army Accounts" (Volume V, Page 36, Folio 1):

Heading: An Acco^t of Cloathing Currency and Specie Certificates, sent to the Commissioners at New York by the Comptroller of Public Acco^s of the State of North Carolina May 1790.

Number: 625

Name: James Coffee

Amount: 3 pounds, 4 shillings currency

Other information: None

Raleigh, North Carolina

9 July _____, 1968.

J. Miller
State Archivist

State of North Carolina Morgan District
 N. 1505. This Certificate that the Deed of Partition
 between James Coffee & James Fountain
 & John Miller is in
 full compliance to an order of the Court in such case
 made at Greensboro on the 31st day
 of August 1784
 by order
 J. M. [Signature]
 J. M. [Signature]

*Tennessee Historical Society*STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37218

May 12, 1967

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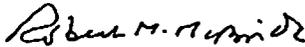
Dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of May 3 has come to my attention.
The records of the Society show that:

- (1) General John Coffee, of Tennessee, friend of Andrew Jackson, and born in 1772, was the son of;
- (2) Joshua Coffee, who was born in 1745 and married in 1767. He was the son of;
- (3) Peter and Savannah Coffee, who came from Ireland in 1750 and settled in Prince Edward County, Virginia.

I have been unable to find any reference to an Achilles Coffee or to a Lewis Coffey.

Sincerely,

Robert M. McBride
Recording Secretary

RM4:1b

See; Page 9, COFFEY-CLEVELAND File.

See: "Name and Family of Coffey or Coffee:
102-C, Page 46.

No doubt Elizabeth Coffey, mother of Gen. John Coffey was a sister to Jane (Graves) Coffey, wife of John Coffey.

Received the following from Mr. McBride. This information he got from the Coffey-Cleveland document.

June 23, 1967

Dear Mr. Moore,

In your letter of June 12, you requested a photocopy of the statement that "John Coffee with his wife (Jane Graves) and their two sons, James and Thomas, came to America," etc.

This statement is made, in effect, on page 1 of Thomas Coffey and His Descendants. I enclose a few pertinent pages of this publication. In it you will see that 9 children are listed, including Thomas and James. This book is thereafter concerned almost totally with the descendants of Thomas. Elsewhere in the book there are scattered references to John and Jane Coffee and to some of their children, viz:

- p. 82: In 1745-47, John Coffee was living in Spottsylvania County, Va.; in Amherst in 1764.
- p. 85: John Coffee died in Albemarle County in 1775.
- p. 85: His son James Coffee (1738-1786) was in Wilkes Co., N.C. in 1784; in Burke in 1790.
- p. 86: His sons, John, Thomas, Reuben and Benjamin all in Burke County in 1790.

Now, this book makes mention of only one of James Coffee's children (Lewis, on p. 85). For the complete listing, I send two documents: (1) some manuscript pages from the Cleveland-Coffee papers in the Tennessee State Library, and (2) a copy of the DAR record which traces descent from James Coffee.

The Cleveland-Coffee MS makes scattered references to James and Elizabeth Coffee and their children:

- p.9: James Coffee went from Virginia to North Carolina.
- pp. 7, 8, 10: Eli Coffee in the Revolution at the age of 16; some of his descendants listed.
- p. 2: Joel Coffee in N. C. legislature.
- pp. 8, 10: Rice Coffee removed to Bedford County, Tennessee; some of his descendants listed.
- p. 11: Ten of the children of James Coffee listed.

In the Draper Kings Mountain Papers, Elijah Coffee stated that his grandmother (he is referring to Elizabeth Cleveland, wife of James Coffee) was a sister of Col. Cleveland; that his grandfather was Joel Coffee (son of James) and that his father was Cleveland Coffee (son of Joel). Draper MS 1300130.

- I. JOHN COFFEE married ELIZABETH GRAVES. No further data on them except a list of their children. The oldest son was:
 - 11. JAMES COFFEE, born in Ireland in 1726. He was married in 1746 in Prince William County, Virginia, to ELIZABETH CLEVELAND.

JAMES COFFEE served in the Revolutionary War, and five of his sons were Revolutionary soldiers. He died in Wilkes County, North Carolina, in 1813. His wife, who was born in 1728, died in 1828. They had eleven children:

- 1. John Coffee.
- 2. ACHILLES COFFEE.
- 3. Reuben Coffee.

4. Betsy Coffee (b. 1748, d. 1810) married Robert Whiteside (who was born Feb. 22, 1743; died in 1810).
5. Ambrose Coffee.
6. James Coffee. He married Sarah Coffee in Wilkes County, N.C., August 30, 1794.
7. Eli Coffee, born March 1, 1763; married Hannah Allen. In 1796 he was living in Wilkes County.
8. Joel Coffee. He married Jane Coffee in Wilkes County in August 1793.
9. LEWIS COFFEE. He married Bedunt Moore in Wilkes County December 10, 1795. (Ambrose Coffee was the bondsman.)
10. Rice Coffee, born 1768; married Sarah Bradford.
11. A daughter, who married Martin Durham.

Comments: It was stated that James Coffee (11) served in the Revolution from Pennsylvania. It is true that a James Coffee was a private in Capt. People's Company, from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (See Pennsylvania Archives, 5th Series, Vol. VI, p. 57), but no proof that they were the same.

The Coffee genealogy that I mentioned is a record of the descendants of Thomas Coffee, who was a brother of James Coffee II. This also showed that Lewis Coffee was a son of James, and that James was the son of John. But this family was always identified with Virginia until they went to North Carolina; its unlikely they were in Pennsylvania.

Also in Draper MS, one Wylie Lewis wrote that Reuben and Lewis Coffee (sons of James) and (Mc)Caleb Coffee (their first cousin) lived in Burke County last he heard and that they were relatives of Col. Cleveland. Draper MS 5DD34.

As far as Revolutionary War service goes, it appears that, from these records, several of the family did have:

1. James Coffee (DAR record and Cleveland-Coffee Papers, p. 8.)
2. Eli Coffee (p. 8).
3. Another son (p. 8).
4. Reuben Coffee. He served under Capt. Moses Guest, Major Winston, and Col. Cleveland; was in the Battle of Kings Mountain. In 1832 he was living in Wayne County, Ky. and was granted a pension for his service. (This information from Amherst County, Virginia, in the Revolution p. 116). -- Remember that James lived in Amherst County before he went to Wilkes County; N. C.

You could get the service record of Reuben from the National Archives, and also ask for the records of the other brothers.

Without dates and more information, I don't believe I can identify the Thomas Lane referred to. What do you know about him? It is not an unusual name, and there are several in N. C. at the time. It would seem unlikely that he is the same Thomas Lane who was the grandfather of James H. Lane and father of Amos Lane. -- this family being from New York and Connecticut. The Dictionary of American Biography does not indicate any Revolutionary War connection for James H. Lane.

Do you know who the first Achilles Coffey married, where, and when he left North Carolina?

Let me know if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,
(signed)
Robert M. McBride

413 Chesterfield
Nashville 37212

Coffey-Cleveland File -- Sent by: Mr. Robert M. McBride

Miss Florence Whiteside,
7 Ashburton Place.

191 Sigourney St.
Hartford, Conn.
Sept. 28, 1885

Miss Florence Whiteside,

Dear Kinswoman,

Your valued favors duly received, records carefully tabulated. Elizabeth(3) Cleveland was doubtless daughter to Alexander (2) Cleveland who was son of Alexander (1) Cleveland by Lady Axminster, a daughter of Lord Axminster acc. to tradition whose given name was doubtless Elizabeth.

The Cromwellian romance can not be substantiated by documentary evidence, in fact by calculation of dates of the several generations at decease, it brings the birth of Alexander (1) about 1625, 30 years anterior to the Protectorate.

If you will call at 18 Somerset Street, Boston, and see Draper's "King's Mountain and its Heroes" you will find many items of interest, concerning your branch of the Cleveland family.

Alexander (2) came to America accompanied by those of his children then born. His wife, name not yet learned, was born 1667 and died on Blue Run, Orange Co., Virginia, aged 103 in 1770. Alexander (2) died same place 1770 aged 111 years.

The names of their children so far as can be conjectured or ascertained were:

1. John (3) born 1695 -- 1700, married Miss Martha Coffee.
2. Alexander (3) born 1700 married -----.
3. Micaiah (3) born 1707 married -----.
4. Jeremiah (3) born 1708-9 married -----.
5. Elizabeth (3) born 1710-11 married Rev. James Coffee.

John (3) was father to Col. Ben (4) the Hero of King's Mountain and his brother Capt. Robert whose grandson Maj. Watkins visited me recently. You will find an interesting correspondent in his daughter, Miss Jennie Watkins, of Rome, Georgia. Please examine the enclosed sheets and fill in as many items as you can readily, and return the sheets to me. Your mother can doubtless give you the maiden name of her mother. In giving the families of children please place the name of the parent at the head of their family. Write soon.

Yours truly,
Edmund J. Cleveland
191 Sigourney St.,
Hartford, Conn.

Coffey-Cleveland File -- Sent by: Robert H. McBride

COFFEY

1. Robert Coffey
2. Martha Coffey, m. John Cleveland, son of Alexander Cleveland.
3. James Coffey, a Baptist minister, m. Elizabeth Cleveland, Issue:

1. John Coffey	5. Reuben Coffey	9. Betsy Coffey, m. Robert Whiteside
2. James Coffey	6. Eli Coffey	10. One sister, m. Martin Durham
3. Achilles Coffey	7. Joel Coffey	11. Rice Coffey
4. Ambrose Coffey	8. Lewis Coffey	

The father of Elizabeth Cleveland was Alexander Cleveland. He had a son John Cleveland, who was father of Col. Ben Cleveland. John Cleveland married Martha Coffey, the sister of Robert Coffey, so the result was double cousins. The above Joel Coffey was a member of the General Assembly of North Carolina and represented Burke County, N.C., in 1815. Eli's son A. M. Coffey married Mary Bradford, a niece of Sarah Bradford, who married Rice Coffey. An uncle and nephew married aunt and niece.

Page 1
St. Elmo, Tennessee
May 3, 1913

To Robert Dyas

I am sending all the Coffey data I have though I fear it will help you little. Our branch of the family spells the name with the "Y". If you are able to trace your line to the James Coffey who married Elizabeth Cleveland (see page 1 of the data), I shall be glad to send you the Cleveland data that I have, as it will then be of interest to you.

You wrote from Wheeler's "History of North Carolina." I would appreciate page and chapter numbers as I am unable to locate the data.

I have asked Mr. Charles S. Coffey, formerly of Monticello, Ky., now residing in Chattanooga for any Coffey data he might have. When I receive it --- I expect to in a few days --- I shall send it to you.

Hoping my data will be of some aid to your research, I am,

Yours Sincerely,
(signed)
Mary Anderson Everott.

1. Alexander Cleveland married Elizabeth Axminster, daughter of Lord Axminster.
2. Alexander Cleveland, married -----
3. James Coffey married Elizabeth Cleveland
4. Robert Whiteside married Betsy Coffey
5. Jonathon Whiteside married Thankful Anderson
6. James Anderson Whiteside married Mary Jones Hossengill
7. Thankful Anderson married Abraham Malone Johnson
8. Frances A. Johnson married Douglas Everett
9. Mary Anderson Everott.

Page 9

Rice Coffey's grandmother of his mother's side was a Miss McMinn. His mother was Elizabeth Cleveland, sister of Col. Benj. Cleveland who commanded a regiment at the battle of King's Mountain, in the Revolutionary War. His grandfather on his mother's side was John Cleveland, whose mother was a daughter of Oliver Cromwell

Said Rice's grandfather, on his father's side was John Coffey. Said Rice's own father was James Coffey, whose brothers and sisters were; (1) John; (2) James; (3) Achilles; (4) Amrose; (5) Reuben; (6) Eli; (7) Joel; (8) Lewis; (9) Elizabeth; (10) Patsy.

Elizabeth married Reuben Whitesides; Patsy married Marshall Durhem

Said Rice's children were; (1) Jerusha; (2) Elvira; (3) Henry; (4) Mary; (5) Weightstill A.; (6) Alexander H.; (7) Martha or Patsy, as she was called; (8) Benjamin B.; (9) John Reid.

Said Rice's mother was born in 1772 and died 1827. Said Rice's wife's maiden name was Sally Bradford, whose mother's maiden name was Margaret Wilson. Said Sally's grandmother's maiden name was Nellie Reid, a daughter of John Reid. Said Rice's wife's father was Bennette Bradford, whose mother's maiden name was Marr, a scotch lady.

Bennett Bradford's children were: (1) Hannah; (2) Polly; (3) Sally; (4) John; (5) Benjamin; (6) Henry; (7) Nelly; (8) James; and (9) Hamilton.

Said Rice was born in Amherst County, Va. in April 1765 and died at Wart-race, Bedford Co., Tenn., July 24, 1853 and his wife, the said Sally, was born June 22, 1770 and died Sept. 3, 1840.

Said Rice was a cousin to Gen. John Coffey, who commanded a brigade with Gen. Jackson in the war 1812-15, and who was born June 2d. 1772 and died near Florence, Ala. July 7, 1833, and was son of Joshua Coffee and Elizabeth (Graves) Coffee of Virginia. -----

The following data was copied from a letter of Col. A. M. Coffey, of Knobnoster, Mo., written Feb. 9, 1897, to his daughter, Mrs. Robert Walker of Beaverton, Oregon: ----

"The Coffeys are of Irish origin. Many of the name still live in Ireland. The first emigrants located in Virginia, (from) whence my Grandfather James Coffey, removed to North Carolina, when my father was a boy, and at the age of sixteen he entered the army and served during the balance of the Revolutionary War. One of my father's brothers (Rice Coffey) married a sister of your grandfather Bradford. They moved to Bedford County, Tennessee, where they lived and died at a good old age. My father removed to Kentucky in 1814 when I was ten years old, settled at Monticello in 1823. I went to Central College at Danville and graduated in 1826, went that fall to Tennessee, taught school in an academy close to your Grandpa Bradford's. Your mother was one of my pupils. We were married July 22, 1828. We lived together 65 years, 3 months and eight days, and during the time if there was ever a hard thought or word spoken between us we had forgotten it. My Grandmother Coffey was a Cleveland and lived to be one hundred years old. She was of the South Carolina family of Cleavelands, and was a near relative of Col. Ben Cleveland, the terror of the Tories, and he was in command with Shelby and Sevier at King's Mountain. The Cleavelands were English and traced their lineage back to Cromwell and the Duchess of Cleveland in English history." -----

Uncle Asbury Madison Coffey wrote the following about his parents ---

"My father, Eli Coffey, was born March 1, 1763, died Sept. 5, 1857, aged 84 years. His father was James Coffey, whose birth and death are lost. His mother was Elizabeth Cleveland. My mother's name was Hannah Allen, daughter of David and Hannah Allen. My mother died August 1849, aged 87. Three children were born to them: --- James, Allen, both died in infancy, and the writer, Asbury M., who was born on the 25 of Jan. 1804. This is dated Nov. 16, 1863. -----

1896

Col. A. M. Coffey, of this city, celebrated his 92nd birthday last Saturday at his home in this city and received calls from numerous friends and acquaintances who have known this noble old gentleman but to admire and love him. An elegant dinner was spread at 2 o'clock and a number of friends, among whom were noticed P. B. Shafer, Rev. B. L. Mitchell, John Elliot, W. W. Woodmaney and Dr. Docker, gathered with the Colonel about

the well laden board for a feast fit for a king. Friends were dropping in all the afternoon to pay Col. Coffey their respect, and wish him many happy returns of the day. He is looking hale indeed for a man of his age and but for the unfortunate injury to his hip ten years ago would be quite active. Col. Coffey was born in Wilkes County, N.C., Jan. 25, 1804, and lived there until ten years of age when his parents moved to Wayne Co., Ky. settling at Monticello. Here he grew to manhood, and until 22 years of age. While living here he attended Center College at Danville, Ky. and was graduated from that institution in 1826. All those who were his classmates and companions have passed on to the silent majority. After graduating he removed to Tennessee where he married and continued to reside until 1842. During six years of this residence he was treasurer of what is now the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, which at that time extended from Knoxville to some point in Georgia. In 1842 he went to Pettus Co., Mo. and in 1859 removed to Knobwater, Mo. where he has made his home ever since. In 1850 he was appointed Indian agent by President Fillmore and was located in Kansas for a number of years among the Peories. During this time he located, surveyed, and named the town "paoli", and this was what suggested the name Paola to Col. Coffey and led to giving that name to the town. Coffey Co., Kansas, as well as Coffeyville, was named for him. From 1873 to 1889 he was quite prominent in Mo., having served the entire time as secretary of the State Grange. He was also postmaster at Knobwater during President Cleveland's first term, and while serving in this capacity in 1885 that he was thrown down by a defective side-walk and fractured his hip which never healed. In his early life, Col. Coffey was an old line Whig and cast his first presidential vote for Henry Clay, but afterwards became a staunch adherent to Democratic principles and is still strongly attached thereto. His mind is quite wonderfully clear for one of his years and an hour in his company is a real treat. He gives to every visitor a hearty welcome, treats him with that cordiality which distinguishes the cultured gentlemen while in his home, and bids them God speed at parting. Though confined to his home for ten years his disposition is still bright and sunny. No word, no murmur, is heard from him. With fortitude and calmness he awaits the call to come up higher.

This is a typescript copy of the Pension application of Reuben Coffey. In the original edition, a copy of the original was shown, but it was of such quality that it could not be reproduced. ----

State of Kentucky)
Wayne County)

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the justices of the court of Wayne County, now sitting, Reubin Coffey, a resident of Wayne County, in the County of Wayne and state aforesaid. Aged seventy-two years old the 18th of September last, who being first duly sworn according to the law, doth on his oath makes the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered in the service of the United States, under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit, that this said Reubin Coffey volunteered under Capt. Moses Guest, in Wilks County, North Carolina, in a horse company for as long a period as our country needed my services, & in the service of this United States, on the 17th day of June, 1780. Before the Battle of Kings Mountain, and served as a private, I marched under my Captain Moses Guest, Lieutenant Thomas Ferguson & Majors _____ Hartgrove, his Christian name not recollected, & Major Joseph Winston, and Col. Benjamin Clevelan with Adjutant Major Luke(?) Franklin.

We first marched to Ramsowers(?) Mill in Lincoln County, North Carolina the day after the battle there. And when we met General Ruthford and General Thomas Sumpter and their army. The Tories being then departed our Regiment marched towards home and was generally engaged in scouting after the Tories. We had several small engagements with them, the British and Tories having collected in force and marching toward Virginia as far as Burk(e) County, North Carolina. We pursued them and they retreated towards Kings Mountain. Our Commanders were Col. Benjamin Cleveland and Col. William Campbell, Col. R. Isaac Shelby & Col. John Sevier. We overtook and fought the British & Tories at Kings Mountain in South Carolina & defeated them on Saturday the 7th day of October 1780. We remained on the Battle ground until Sunday the next day and then marched with the prisoners up to meet Col. Walker in Rutherford County, North Carolina. We then marched about three miles to a Widow Bickenstaffs where a court martial was held and condemned and hung nine of the Tories. We after marched thru Burk County, Wilkes County and toward the Moravian town. The Main Army marched to the Moravian Town & guarded the British and Tories. But my Ensign Benjamin Guest with myself and 45 or so of our company by orders were detached to go back upon the frontier to quell & pursue the Tories, who had caused a considerable alarm. I was upon several small expeditions. One Dover to Guilford, another to Hunting Creek, another to the hollows of the Adkin. I was some time stationed at Hamlin's Old store in Wilkes County, & another time at John Stablers in Burk County and other places. Remained in service twelve months and upward. Our country having no further call for our services, myself and others were discharged sometime in the fall of the

year 1781, by our Captain at his own house in Wilks County North Carolina. But not in Wilks. Having served fully twelve months for which I now claim. ----

I, the said Reubin Coffey was born in the State of Virginia, Albemarle County, on the 16th September, 1759. My father moved to Amherst County, Virginia, four or 5 years after, where I lived about 15 years. My father then moved to the state of North Carolina and settled in Wilks County near the head of the Adkin River, where I resided several years. I stayed about 14 years. I then settled in Burk County and lived there about 22 years. I then moved to the state of Kentucky, in Wayne County where I now live & have resided here a little upwards of ? years.

That I have no documentary evidence, but can prove by Martin Durham and Lewis Coffey of my being engaged in said service. I, the said Reubin Coffey hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the agency any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Reubin Coffey (signed)

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Quoting Rev. Achilles Coffey's letter -- "My grand-father Coffey died about one hundred years ago in North Carolina; His name was Achilles Coffey. Gov. Cullom, the present governor of Illinois and I are grand-sons of brothers; he of Lewis and I of Achilles."

Dr. Laurance H. Coffey's HISTORY OF THE COFFEY FAMILY stated that Lewis, the son of James and Elizabeth Coffey, married Bedant Moore while living in North Carolina.

In answer to my letter, the Illinois Historical Library sent the following interesting report -----

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY
Centennial Building -- Springfield, Illinois 62706

SHELBY MOORE CULLOM

We do not have a geneological chart for the Cullom family.

Shelby Moore Cullom (1829-1914), U. S. Senator and governor of Illinois, was born November 22, 1829 in Wayne County, Kentucky, the son of Richard Northcraft and Elizabeth (Coffey) Cullom. He was the seventh of twelve children born to this couple. Richard Northcraft Cullom was born October 1, 1795 in Maryland, the son of William and Elizabeth Cullom, and died December 4, 1872 in Tazewell County, Illinois. Elizabeth Coffey was born in 1797 in North Carolina, the daughter of Major L. Coffey, married in Kentucky, and died in Tazewell County, Illinois, December 5, 1858.

(Dictionary of American Biography, v. 4, pp. 558-59; Andreas, Lyter and Co.; Atlas map of Tazewell County, Illinois, 1875, p. 54; Shelby M. Cullom's Fifty Years of Public Service, 1811.

From the book: --- "History of the Regular Baptists."
 BIOGRAPHY OF ELDER A. COFFEY.

HAVING been intimately acquainted with Elder A. Coffey for the last forty years, and believing that it will not be amiss, I will therefore give a short history of his life.

He was born in Wayne County, Kentucky, July the 30th, A. D. 1806. In the year 1813, the time of the British war, his parents moved to the territory of Indiana, Jefferson County, and settled four miles from the fort. Here they suffered many privations and fears, inasmuch that they remained only one year. Thence they removed to Washington County, and settled near the town of Salem, where they remained three years. In the fall of 1817, they moved back to Wayne County, Kentucky, but stayed there only the short space of one year. In 1818, they went to Alabama, where they remained two years. On 30th July they started for Illinois, and in the fall of 1820 landed in what is now Sangamon County, where they were again among the Red Men. Here they stayed two years, and then moved to what is now Saline County, Illinois, which was then a very wilderness country. During all this time they were almost entirely destitute of any means of education.

It may seem rather strange that a man who has been raised among the savages and wild beasts, could write a history, but when we consider that the most talented and useful men have been what is termed self-made, the mystery is solved. Elder Coffey took a great deal of pains to gain an education, and is a tolerably fair scholar. He made a profession of religion in his youth and attached himself to the Baptist Church before the division on the Missionary question. Believing the Bible and the Bible alone to be the only rule of faith and practice, and being utterly opposed to the inventions of men, in the affair of religion, he stood firm on the principles upon which the church was founded. And by his unwavering fidelity to the Apostle's doctrine, he rendered much service to the Regular Baptists of this country. Taking the Bible alone for his guide, and finding that the church of Christ was set up on earth and was to stand forever, his inquiring mind led him to search history to find out where she had been in the dark ages, and the Baptists having such implicit confidence in him, have repeatedly requested that he write a history of the Baptists, principally of Southern Illinois, which he with a great degree of reluctance consented to do. Having examined his manuscript, I, with all my heart, recommend his little volume to the Regular Baptists, and to all enquirers after truth.

There is no man that stands higher among the Regular Baptists than does Elder Coffey, not only among them, but he is a man of good report with them that are without. Having labored to the best of my ability in the same gospel field for the last thirty years, I know whereof I speak.

Respectfully,

RICHARD FULKERSON.

Golconda, Illinois, January 1, 1877.

Rev. Achilles Coffey's Letter, Page 1

Salina Co. Ill

Oct.. the 21st 1878

Dear Children; We are in common health; in answer to your request I must say that I am quite inadequate to give the necessary information as my Father was raised an orphan boy and had a very limited acquaintance with the original stock of our family relatives; the Coffey portion of the family emigrated from Ireland, and I have frequently heard it said by the old members of the connection that there were two brothers who came to America and raised eleven sons apiece from which the numerous stock has sprung, but I cannot give their names; the time of their arrival or where they located; but should judge either in Virginia or the Carolinas as they have emigrated from there to the west ever since my first recollection. They have been a family noted for morality and industry and generally well to do, or good livers, some farmers, some mechanics, some ministers of the Gospel and some lawyers amongst them. My grand mother on my father's side by the name of Waid. I think her parents came direct from Ireland but I can not give their names nor place of their locality; her maiden name was Elou Waid.. My great grand mother Coffey lived to the advanced age of one hundred and twelve as you will see in my history: she was a sister of Col.

Rev. Achilles Coffey's Letter, Page 2

Cleavten of the Revolutionary War. who it is said weighed seven hundred pounds before his death.

My grand father Coffey died about one hundred years ago in North Carolina; his name was Achilles Coffey.. Governor Cullom the present governor of Illinois and I are grandsons of brothers; he of Lewis and I of Achilles Coffey. On my mothers side her fathers name was Thomas Eane; I think he was of English descent He died at Ninety six years of age in Southern Illinois.. He had lived in Virginia, North Carolina and N.Y. raised in the Quaker persuasion but finally espoused the Baptist faith. My grand mother on my mothers side was of Welsh descent; her name was Nancy Dabney before her marriage.. There were some men of distinction amongst them but I am not able to give their history. If you wish any information as to your mother's genealogy I can only go back to your grand father whose name was Jacob Baen. a minister of the Gospel of the Methodist order; he claimed to be of German descent.

Your grand mother's maiden name was Susan Hattey and had some relationship to the Henry Clay family. This is about all I can think of that would come in the bounds of your request and this may not..

If there is anything else you want let me know. Keep me posted as to your place of address..

Yours as ever

A. Coffey

GENEALOGY OF THE COFFEY FAMILY AS GIVEN
IN REV. ACHILLES COFFEY'S LETTER.

COFFEY ---- CLEVELAN

V

ACHILLES COFFEY ----- ELON WAID

V

NANCY DABNEY ---- THOS. LANE

V

GREAT-GREAT-GRAND-FATHER

JAMES COFFEY ----- LANE

V

JACOB DEAN -- SUSAN HATTY

V

GREAT GRAND-FATHER

REV. ACHILLES COFFEY ----- JANE DEAN

V

JAMES CARNAHAN -- MARY ?

V

GRAND-FATHER

COL. JAMES A. COFFEY ----- LOUISA ADELADE FERRIS LONG CARNAHAN

113-A

UNITED STATES BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY, OF KANSAS ----- 1879

James A. Coffey, Larned

James A. Coffey was born Nov. 18th, 1827, in Gallatin County, Ill. He is descended from one of three brothers who immigrated from Scotland and settled in America early in the eighteenth century. They settled in Virginia and in the Old Dominion, and in the Old Dominion several generations have been born and reared. Gen. Coffey who served with Gen. Jackson in the war of 1812 was a member of this family. James Coffey, grand-father of James A. Coffey was born in Virginia in 1773, moved to Tennessee, thence to Kentucky and finally settled in Hamilton County, Ill. where he died in 1853. The grand-mother of James A. Coffey was a member of the Lane family, of which Sen. James H. Lane, so intimately connected with old John Brown in the Kansas trouble is a living descendent. His father, Achilles Coffey was born in Kentucky in 1804, served as a captain in the Black Hawk War, afterwards entering the ministry of the Baptist Church and has since been active in the organization of churches; is the author of "History of the Baptists in Illinois", a man of rare Christian virtues and resides at present in Saline County, Ill. His mother, (Jane Dean Coffey) was a daughter of Rev. Jacob Dean, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Hamilton County, Ill., where he died of cholera in 1853.

James was the third of twelve children; there was no convenient schools near his residence, and his early education was almost entirely neglected. Not until after his marriage did he learn to write. He was reared on a farm and in 1848, he purchased some land and began farming in Gallatin County. In 1854 he moved to Kansas and settled four miles south of Lawrence. He was opposed to the introduction of slavery into the territory and took part with the free-state men. He was with Lane and Brown in the capture of Washington Creek Fort and the engagement at Lecompton. Part of the time he was commissary and supplied the needy and destitute with rations. He was twice taken prisoner by the pro-slavery party and he lost cattle and other stock by the Missourilians. In 1857, Gov. Geary having restored peace, he purchased the land where Humbolt is now, and engaged in merchandising. In 1859 Oliver

Marsh became a partner in the store and they established trading posts on the Neosho and the Verdigris and Arkansas Rivers, the latter post where Wichita now stands. During his traffic with the Indians he acquired two languages which he still speaks fluently. The firm of Coffey and Marsh engaged in farming and stock dealing. In 1857 they laid out the town of Humbolt, dealt in real estate, sold town lots and improved property. In 1865 they sold their entire business, moved to Kansas City and opened a whole-sale grocery establishment. In the same year, Mr. Coffey took a large stock of goods to the northern part of Decota Territory and remained with the Sioux for one year. In 1868, the firm of Coffey and Marsh, being compelled to pay heavy security debts, was unable to pay dollar for dollar and dissolved.

Mr. Coffey went to West Port, Mo. where for one year he sold general merchandise. In 1869 he went to Chetopa continuing his farming operations and trading in stock. In 1870, he pre-empted the land on which Coffeyville, Kansas is located, laid it off into town lots and disposed of the property, transferring his stock of goods to that point. He built the first house and the first store in Coffeyville. He also erected the first saw and grist mill in Montgomery County. He afterward built the River Mills. Here he traded with the Osage Indians until 1875. He was foremost in the enterprise for the promotion of the public interests, and on this account, the town, when organized was named in his honor. In the effort to build up and develop the town he lavished his time and money and greatly aided in the construction of the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad. In the spring of 1878, he protected his family from malarial disorders produced by the development of the country and moved to Larned; here he again formed a partnership with Oliver Marsh, and the firm of Coffey and Marsh began the business of general merchants. They also dealt in real estate and stock, having a large stock ranch in Mead County and a large territory in the Panhandle of Texas.

Politically a Democrat, he has always been opposed to the institution of Slavery and during the Kansas trouble was an active assailant of the free-soilers. He has ever taken a deep interest in local politics, endeavoring to secure the best men for the position of trust. Though frequently solicited, he has always refused to accept office; he is a member of the Baptist Church.

He married December 27th, 1849 to Miss Louisa A. Carnahan, daughter of James and Mary Carnahan, of Gallatin County, Ill. They have had nine children, seven of whom are still living.

Without early education, without wealth, without influential friends, Mr. Coffey has built up his fortune by his own un-aided effort. No man stands higher than he, in business circles, and his uniform success is attributed to his industry, enterprise and tenacious adherence to principle. Whether as a business man or guardian of the public and political interests of his state and people, he deserved popular credit for his effort in behalf of "Free Kansas" and will ever be remembered to his credit and honor.

LETTER WRITTEN BY MY MOTHER --- IRENA COFFEY MOORE.

December 9th, 1935
235 St. Joseph Ave.
Long Beach, California

Mrs. Earl Moulder
Coffeyville, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Moulder:

I have your letter making inquiries about my father, the founder of Coffeyville, and various facts regarding the family.

There were eight children, six reaching maturity; my brother Ebben Rice Coffey, was born Dec. 17th, 1852 in Harrisburg, Illinois. He passed away this Summer while I was visiting him, in his home at Austin, Colorado.

My oldest sister, Mrs. Mary McIntyre, was born May 13th, 1851 in Harrisburg, Illinois. She passed away in Tombstone, Arizona several years ago.

I was born in Lawrence, Kansas, December 12th, 1856. My home is here in Long Beach.

Mrs. Amy Emerson, now living in La Veta, Colorado, was born in Humbolt, Kansas in the year 1861.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ruble, who also has passed away, was born in Humbolt, Kansas.

Mrs. Lula Murdock, whose home is in La Veta, Colorado, was born in 1866 in Kansas City.

Two other children died in infancy; one a son, John Gerry; and the other a daughter, Phoebe.

My mother, Louisa Adelaide Ferris Long Carnahan, was born in Wayne County, Kentucky in 1833. Her father was a Methodist minister. She lived for some time in Illinois; and at the age of fifteen, married my father. They soon moved to Eastern Kansas; and in the course of time, came to that part of the Indian Territory, as it was then called, where Father started the town now known as Coffeyville. Mother lived in various towns in Kansas until the year 1905, when she moved with her son and his family to Austin, Colorado. It was here she died, leaving a large circle of friends. She was a most honored and well-loved woman.

I am enclosing a picture of my father taken at the time he was trading with the Indians in Coffeyville. James A. Coffey was born November 18th, 1827 in Gallatin County, Illinois. He was the third of twelve children. He was reared on a farm; and in the year 1848 bought some land in Gallatin County, and began farming but remained only a few months. He did not care for farming; and soon after he married, he and his wife moved to Harrisburg, Illinois where three of the children were born. In 1854 he moved to the territory of Kansas where he established a small store and a post-office a few miles from Lawrence, on Wakarusa Creek. This was before the burning of Lawrence. In 1857 he went to Humbolt, paying a twenty dollar gold piece for that site. In the meantime he traded with the Indians, had a store and several farms. His father Achilles Coffey, came with him and built the first church. He was with James H. Lane and John Brown in the capture of Washington Creek Fort and at the engagement of Lecompton. Part of the time he had charge of the commissary, and was twice taken prisoner by the pro-slavery parties. The guerrillas burnt his store; and the government confiscated a hundred tons of hay and sixteen spans of mules. He was away at the time, trading with the Indians, but just where I do not know. He established trading posts on the Neosho, the Verdigris and the Arkansas Rivers, doing considerable business with the Indians. He also did some trading in the Osage Agency, and with the Kaw Indians. He spoke three or

four Indian languages fluently. There were times however, when he used an Indian Interpreter, Billy Connors, a full blood Osage. On occasions when there was trouble to be settled with the Indians, my father took this interpreter and went with the Indian council to Washington, to straighten out the matter. I am enclosing a picture of this interpreter, as I think it might prove interesting for you to have. These trips took place during the administration of President Hayes.

From here we moved to Kansas City; while there my father established about four stores; and was rarely home, but traveled about amongst the various stores, one at Chetopa, one at Ft. Scott, and a post at what is now Wichita, and in the Indian Territory. He also had some cattle interests, and was connected with several drives from Ft. Worth to Omaha. In 1865 he took a stock of goods to the Northern part of Dakota Territory where he remained with the Sioux Indians for a year. The family remained in Kansas City. In the meantime, he had a store, a four story brick at #3 Levee Street, Kansas City, and also had a farm near that city.

Then the family spent one or two years at Westport, where my Father built a two story brick building and established a drug store for family revenue; this was operated by a couple of clerks and a Dr. Wilson. In later years, part of our fifty acre home was taken into a Kansas City Park; and part of it is now a fine residential section. In the meantime, my father was trading with the Indians, and we next moved to that section of the State where Coffeyville now is.

The records in the U. S. Biographical Dictionary for the State of Kansas states, "In the year 1870 he pre-empted the land on which Coffeyville, Kansas is located." However, this actually took place in 1868. I have the old account book with records of Father's mercantile accounts for the year 1868. He had already taken up the land, established his home and business before that time; so it must have been in 1868 when we came here. My father was the first settler to come amongst the Indians. He set up his own saw mill and grist mill in addition to having a mercantile business, where he traded with the Indians until 1875. He was fore-most in every enter-prise for the promotion of the public interest; and on this account, the town, when organized was named in his honor. Coffeyville was started a year or more before Parker.

He was of considerable aid in the construction of the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad. Coffeyville was a natural place for a railroad and as trade was to be had on both sides of the state line, so the town did not have to vote bonds as an inducement for the railroad to come here. Almost all other towns had to vote bonds.

In 1878 we moved to Larned, and my father had a store there. His partner was Oliver Marsh. He also dealt in real estate and cattle, and also had a large store in Meade County, and a considerable acreage in the Texas Panhandle. He next located in Dodge City, but was there only two months when he died. He had a whole-sale business as well as retail store in Dodge City; and loaded wagon trains with goods for the Panhandle. He intended starting a town in the Texas Panhandle but did not live to accomplish this.

Father's mother was Jane Deen (so it is spelled in a letter from Achilles Coffey to his son, my father). Her father, Jacob Deen, was a Methodist minister, and of German descent. Her mother's maiden name was Susan Hattey, and she was related to the Henry Clay family. I remember my grandmother well. She was a small woman, very slender and dainty. She loved beautiful things, and had them about her. It was great for me, in my childhood, to spend some time with her. I enclose a print made from an old daguerrotype I have of my grandmother.

My grandfather, Achilles Coffey, wrote a letter to his children giving facts about the family. I have a copy from which I give you the following items, -- "Two, other sources say three, brother emigrated from Ireland and settled in America early in the 18th century. They settled in Virginia; and were a family noted for morality and industry, and were good livers -- some farmers, some mechanics, some ministers, and others lawyers. General Coffey, who served with General Jackson in the War of 1812, was a member of this family.

He states that his paternal grandmother's name was Elon Waid; and that her parents came directly from Ireland. Achilles great grandmother Coffey lived to the advanced age of one hundred years. She was a sister of Col. Cleaverton of the Revolutionary War."

His grandfather, also called Achilles Coffey, died about 1778 in North Carolina. His maternal grandfather's name was Thomas Lane; and he was of English descent. He was raised a Quaker but became a baptist; and died at the age of ninety six. His maternal grandmother was Nancy Dabney before her marriage; and she had men of distinction among her forebears.

Achilles Coffey, born in 1804, was a captain in the Black Hawk War; and afterwards became a Baptist minister. His father, James, was born in Virginia in 1773, and lived also in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois.

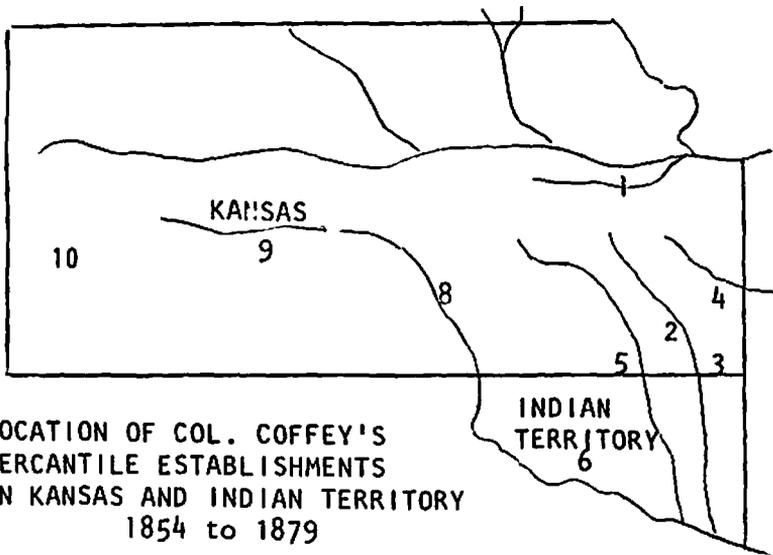
When Coffeyville has its celebration of which you write; if possible, I want to attend. We would like half a dozen copies of the paper from which you sent me the clipping about father's 108th birth anniversary. I greatly appreciate your sending me the clipping.

Very sincerely yours,

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Deeds and other Documents

1. Zena Demas to James A. Coffey, 17 acres, \$85.00, May 12, 1864, Allen County (Humbolt) Kansas.
2. Anna Mary Burnett to James A. Coffey, 160 acres, \$400.00, June 16th, 1864, Montgomery County (Coffeyville).
3. Sales Coffey to James A. Coffey, March 18, 1872, 20 acres, Montgomery County (Coffeyville) Kansas.
4. Isaac Williamson to James A. Coffey, 130 acres, \$225.00, May 22nd, 1874, Montgomery County (Coffeyville).
5. Chas. D. Tichenor to James A. Coffey, Lot 4, Blk. 3, \$225.00, Nov. 9th, 1866, Jackson County (Kansas City).
6. Oliver Marsh to James A. Coffey, 320 acres, \$1,000.00, July 30th, 1867, Kansas City.
7. Ferdinand Dedelish to Louisa A. Coffey; 49 and 70/100 acres; June 19th, 1868, Jackson County, (Kansas City). Regarding the 49 and 70/100 acres; my Mother's letter states: "In later years, part of our fifty acre home place was taken into a Kansas City park; and part of it is now a fine residential section." Purchase price was \$3,720.00
8. Grant of 160 Acres, Homestead certificate # 72, Garden City Land Office, Feb. 25th, 1885; the United States Government to Louisa A. Coffey. Title to her farm on Crooked Creek.
9. A Title Bond by which the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad Company sells to James A. Coffey certain property in Coffeyville for the sum of one Dollar, Nov. 23rd, 1871. Probably to clear some title.
10. On July 22nd, 1871 a grant from probate Judge W. H. Watkins, Montgomery County, trustee for the inhabitants of the Townsite of Coffeyville, to James A. Coffey, party of the 2nd part, who agrees to guarantee cost of acquiring title to sixty parcels, more or less, for the benefit of the occupants.
11. A list of fifteen lots owned and conveyed by James A. Coffey.
12. Agreement with J. M. Heddens who is to operate mill and farm for a consideration owned by James A. Coffey, August 15, 1876.
13. What is known as "Railroad Script" whereby on July 28th, 1875 sells and transfers 640 acres in the State of Texas. No consideration mentioned, "blank" grantee.
14. Letter from General Land Office of the State of Texas, June 27th, 1878, that the above Land Script is genuine. Addressed to James A. Coffey, Larned, Pawnee Co., Kansas.



LOCATION OF COL. COFFEY'S
MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENTS
IN KANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY
1854 to 1879

1. Store on Wakarusa Creek, 5 miles south of Lawrence, Kansas, 1854.
2. Store at Humbolt he founded, 1859.
3. Trading post at Chetopa, Kansas.
4. Trading post at Ft. Scott, Kansas.
5. Trading post at where he later located Coffeyville, Kansas, 1868.
6. Trading post he and A. B. Canville operated in Indian Territory.
6. River mills he operated near Pawhuska, Indian Territory.
7. Wholesale business at Westport.
8. Trading post he operated where Wichita was later located.
9. Store at Larned, Kansas, 1878.
10. Store, wholesale and retail, Dodge City, 1878-79.
11. Post in the Dakotas where he traded with the Sioux tribe.

TITLE BOND.

PRINTED BY THE JOURNAL COMPANY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS.

The Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad Company, A corporation organized under the laws of the State of Kansas, party of the first part, agrees to sell to *James A. Coffey* of *Coffeyville* *Montgomery* County, in the State of *Kansas*, party of the second part, and the said party of the second part agree to buy of said LEAVENWORTH, LAWRENCE AND GALVESTON RAILROAD COMPANY, on the terms and conditions hereinafter contained and set forth, all that tract or parcel of land in the town of *Coffeyville*, in *Montgomery* County and State of Kansas, known as Lot No. *11*

on condition that the said party of the second part pay said LEAVENWORTH, LAWRENCE AND GALVESTON RAILROAD COMPANY therefor, time being the essence of the contract, the sum of *one* (*1.00*) *dollar* cash in hand paid by the said *James A. Coffey* the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged

If the money is punctually paid at the time indicated, said LEAVENWORTH, LAWRENCE AND GALVESTON RAILROAD COMPANY will immediately upon the receipt of it, when called upon, execute to said party of the second part, a deed of all its right, title and interest in said lands.

But if the money, or any part thereof, or interest thereon, is not paid on or before the day it becomes due, the said LEAVENWORTH, LAWRENCE AND GALVESTON RAILROAD COMPANY shall be entirely released from all obligations to convey, both at law and in equity. And said party of the second part, on *his* part, agree to and will pay the taxes assessed on said lands, abstain from the commission of waste, and pay said LEAVENWORTH, LAWRENCE AND GALVESTON RAILROAD COMPANY the sum of money, and interest, as set forth, and if the sale is not completed on account of the said party of the second part not complying with its terms, as herein contained, he will, upon his failure to make such payment, or any part thereof, as above stated, restore to said LEAVENWORTH, LAWRENCE AND GALVESTON RAILROAD COMPANY the possession of said land, and possess an interest in improvements that may have been made upon the land.

Executed in Duplicate, the *Twenty* day of *December* A. D. 1871

Wm. Miller
President Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad Company.

James A. Coffey

Witnesses:

Copied from: C. C. Drake's "Who's Who in Coffeyville and Vicinity".

Kansas . . .

I am left by the writer that while this volume is primarily a history of one city and one county that it nevertheless would fail in some degree of its purpose unless some mention were made of the peculiar circumstances and conditions that marked the birth of the state of Kansas.

We believe that the history of Kansas is not matched by that of any other state of the Union—because an extraordinary nation unwittingly chose this state as its territorial focus as the initial battleground of the Civil War that followed immediately after this territory was admitted as a state in January, 1861.

The firm courageous stand taken by the citizens of Kansas who opposed the extension of slavery in the United States, doubtless inspired the citizens of the entire North to take a similar stand and to resist with armed force the armies of the South and eventually to smash their resistance and obtain the surrender of their great military leader, General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House, to General U. S. Grant, the commander of the Union forces, after a 4-year conflict.

So there is given here a brief history of early Kansas events as a contributory background to the more local history.

THE AUTHOR.

'BRIGHTEST STAR'

A historian in a prostration, once said of Kansas

And so Kansas is the child of the West; her spirit was forged in the white heat of battle from the tortured principles involved by a free people migrating to a new land to build a beacon to light the way to freedom. She shines as the brightest star in the galaxy, which is the hope of the world."

Kansas, exclusively among all of the 48 states of the Union has a definite national history, no other State has such a history. It is often said politically that "As Maine goes so goes the nation."

But only of Kansas can it be said: "The enduring social principles moulded in bleeding Kansas became the established principles of the entire nation."

The national character of Kansas history is conclusively demonstrated in a study of the political issues of the United States from 1845 to 1860. All of the great questions of the day in all of that period touched and embraced the destiny of Kansas. Kansas itself was an outstanding and dominating national issue in American politics.

In Kansas the two national parties were in mortal struggle—one for the supremacy of freedom, the other for the domination of slavery—when freedom won, slavery sought to destroy the Union. The struggle which had marked Kansas baptism of blood, was transferred to the whole nation and threatened for a time to destroy the life of the United States as a united nation.

WOVE KANSAS INTO PARTY

Further proof of this element of nationalism in Kansas if such proof is needed, lies in the platform of the Republican national convention held June 17, 1856 at Philadelphia. To conserve space, only excerpts are quoted here. In the second paragraph, "That as our republican faith, when they abolished slavery in all of our national territory, declared that no person should be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

"That when that occurs it becomes our duty to maintain this provision of the Constitution against all attempts to violate it for the purpose of establishing slavery in any territory of the United States, by positive legislation, prohibiting its entrance or extension therein. That

we deny the authority of Congress, of a territorial legislature, of any individual or association of individuals, to give legal existence to slavery in any territory of the United States, while the present Constitution shall be maintained."

RECITAL OF GRIEVANCES

Here are marshaled some of the chief changes made in the platform: " * * * that the dearest constitutional rights of the people of Kansas have been fraudulently and violently taken from them—their territory has been invaded by an armed force—spurious and pretended legislature, judicial and executive officers have been set over them, by whose usurped authority, sustained by the military power of the government, tyrannical and unconstitutional laws have been enacted and enforced—the rights of the people to bear arms have been infringed—the right of an accused person to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury has been denied—the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures has been violated—they have been deprived of life, liberty and property without due process of law—the freedom of speech and of the press has been abridged—murders, robberies and arson have been instigated and encouraged, and the offenders have been allowed to go unpunished—that all of these things have been done with the knowledge, sanction and procurement of the present Administration and that for this high crime against the Constitution, the Union and humanity, we attack the Administration, the President, his advisers, agents, supporters, apologists and accessories * * * and it is our fixed purpose to bring the actual perpetrators to a sure and prompt punishment hereafter. Resolved that Kansas should be immediately admitted as a State of the Union, with her present free constitution, as at once the most effectual way of securing to her citizens enjoyment of the rights to which they are entitled, and of ending civil strife."

MADE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE

The Republican national platform of 1856 was the first similar document to make reference to a specific territory or state to emphasize a national principle. Again historians may say without fear of refutation that "Kansas and no other state in the Union has a national history."

Yes, this author contends that the 15-year period, particularly the last ten years of that period might well be phrased the "Rhapsody of Civil War causes," for with its birth as a state only 75 days before the firing on Fort Sumpter there had been crystallized a new national conscience. Lincoln had declared in public debate that a "nation half-free and half-slave could not long endure"—and bleeding Kansas had died for its own fate that the slavery half should be the dying part.

Historians generally admit that while the great armed battles of the Civil war were fought principally in the eastern states, that the territory of Kansas was for eight years the real armageddon on whose side the forces of abolition and the forces of slavery waged a war that ended in a decisive moral victory, with just enough of physical clash to seal that victory in the blood of its courageous citizenry.

NATION ROCKED BY ISSUES

In that pre-Civil war period the whole nation was being rocked from central confederacy by the shadows of a threatened internal conflict. The Fugitive Slave law, State Rights, Secession, Slavery, Abolition, the Missouri Compromise, the Dred Scott decision, Squatter sovereignty, all became national dogmas of mighty portents. Uncle Tom's cabin, then which no more powerful human

Copied from: C. C. Drake's "Who's Who in Coffeyville and Vicinity".

Unusual Personages . . . of Coffeyville, Kansas

CAPT. N. B. BLANTON

Founders of towns and other Kansas pioneers often carried modestly, secretly and almost surreptitiously, a past that was redolent of adventure, physical danger and political involvement. Such a pioneer was Capt. Napoleon Bonaparte Blanton. Insofar as this writer has been able to uncover, the past story of this unusual man has never been related in any history of Coffeyville or Montgomery County. Local history as written by E. E. Wilson, Dr. T. C. Frazier or William Connelley, makes no mention of Blanton's earlier life. It is of record here only that Capt. Blanton was a member of the original Town of Coffeyville company, that he opened and operated the first hotel in old Coffeyville, was granted a franchise by the county in 1872 to operate a ferry across the Verdugo river "near the mouth of Pumpkin Creek," and once was candidate for the post of county (financial) agent. Sometimes he signed "Noah B. Blanton." One gathers incidentally in the local stories that he was a close friend of Col. J. A. Coffey, real founder of Coffeyville.

WERE CLOSE FRIENDS

It is true that they were close friends and had known each other and been associated in enterprises at least 12 years before they came to found the town of Coffeyville. There is reason to believe that they knew each other even longer and that it is even a probability that both Coffey and Blanton were with John Brown in some of his earliest engagements with the proslavers. For obvious reasons neither ever talked much about their possible exploits when the issue of slavery was at white heat in Kansas. It simply didn't pay to talk in those days and it need only one commitment to brand one and expose him to the wrath of the Border Ruffians or vice versa. To talk often meant to invite death. One historian, in commenting on Blanton said that he had a characteristic of "keeping his mouth shut." It appears that Blanton was of French descent and among his effects was found a letter he had written to Charles H. Dickinson.

QUARREL CHANGES NAME

He had said in this letter: "I was first named James by my mother's father. My father was of immediate French descent and he was a great friend and admirer of 'our great Sicilian general, while my mother's father hated him. After he and my father had quarreled bitterly over Napoleon, my father renounced his interference and named me Napoleon Bonaparte Blanton." It was in September, 1854 that Blanton picked out a site for his future home. It was on the Wakarusa river, about five miles due south of Lawrence. Blanton resembled Col. Coffey in that he was restless, vigorous, thrifty, always building. He first set up a crude log house on the bank of the river. Then he constructed a bridge across the river on the site of the old Fremont trail. It was a toll bridge and as travel was lively in that period, Blanton's receipts soon enabled him to build a 2-story house with a stone fireplace and chimney at each end. Then he built a trading post and opened a general merchandise store, selling almost everything save to a goodly trade in liquor. It was in the latter part of 1856 that he completed his residence, which was sufficiently spacious that he could accommodate travelers with lodging.

Blanton was born in Missouri in 1830. He first settled in Jackson County, Mo., about 1850. It was from that county and state that he crossed the Kansas-Missouri border line and wound up at Wakarusa. That the three years he lived on the Wakarusa, 1854-57, were crowded with murder, apprehension and danger is easily inferred from the facts of the events that made Kansas history.

CAUGHT IN SITUATION

But Blanton had a difficult role to play, that of being neutral on the slavery issue and friendly to advocates on either side. He knew John Brown, the free state martyr. He knew proslavers who were just as determined the abolitionists should be overcome in numbers as Brown was that the proslavers should be outsmarted.

About this time Charles W. Dow, who had settled on a claim two and one-half miles north and west of Baldwin (then Palmyra) that adjoined the claim of Franklin M. Coleman. Dow was a single man and lived at the home of Jacob Brannon, whose claim joined the Dow claim on the north. Dow had "jumped" a claim occupied by William White and it was alleged he burned down White's cabin. Coleman took exception to this procedure. A survey made to look a dispute, accomplished the opposite. It showed the east line of the Coleman claim was 250 yards too far over on Dow's claim. The two men quarreled and Coleman killed Dow. Dow was 30 or 40 yards distant from Coleman when Coleman pulled the trigger of his gun and it failed to explode the cap. It was said Dow believed he was bluffing and made no attempt to escape. Coleman pulled the trigger again and Dow fell to the ground. That occurred Nov. 21, 1855. The place was designated as Hickory Point P. O. six miles due south along the Old Santa Fe trail from the Blanton bridge over the Wakarusa. It was in the same section as Pacific City. Blanton's claim was in section 19, township 13, range 19 east. Dow was killed in section 20, township 14, range 19 east. Lawrence was located four miles due north of Blanton's bridge.

PROSLAVER IS KILLED

On December 6, 1855, Thomas W. Barber, whose claim was seven miles up the Wakarusa from Blanton's Bridge, was killed four miles due west of Lawrence by George W. Clarke and James N. Burns, Border Ruffians. Clarke is said to have fired the fatal shot. Barber was on his way from Lawrence to visit his wife and child on his claim after a few days' absence. Somehow Barber became a Kansas hero martyr and Dow's slaying, a secondary matter. Dow was a free-state and Coleman a proslaver. It is deducible at least that Blanton, whose house, store and toll bridge were in the midst of this upheaval, later to be known as the War of the Wakarusa, decided to make himself scarce about those parts a few months later. Pickets had been extended up stream from Bluejacket crossing to Blanton's Bridge. Camp Wakarusa was six miles down stream (east) from Blanton's.

Another occurrence transpired at Blanton's bridge May 19, 1856 in add to the confusion and uncertainty of life in those parts. A martial posse, which, in short, was a proslavery inspired body, authorized to keep the peace, shot and killed a 16-year-old boy at Blanton's bridge. The boy had just purchased a bag of meal at Blanton's store and was en route to the home of his widowed mother with the bag on his shoulder when he was killed without provocation. A group of young men organized a posse and left for Lawrence vowing vengeance on all Border Ruffians. However, they were persuaded to disband and return to their homes.

TO LEGISLATURE TWICE

Mr. Blanton's toll bridge, residence and trading post were sold and he was reported to have left that locality in 1857, after a 3-year turbulent residence. He seems never to have returned to Wakarusa river and we next hear of his working with Col. Coffey planning Humboldt and organizing the town-site company. In 1860 he was elected to the state legislature from Allen County and again in 1868.

Blanton was still a member of the legislature from Allen County when he came to Coffeyville with Col. Coffey in 1869 to organize a town company. When it appeared that the federal land office in Kansas would be a valuable acquisition for any town, Blanton went to Washington and there obtained a promise that the land office then in Mapleton would be moved to Humboldt where Blanton then lived. The office was moved as per

Copied from C. C. Drake's "Who's Who in Coffeyville and Vicinity".

Col. J. A. COFFEY

In order that we readers may better understand Col. James A. Coffey, founder of the town of Coffeyville and for whom the town was named, perhaps we should first get into our system a deep draught of the atmosphere of his day, socially and economically speaking. I feel that we can not fully appreciate Col. Coffey, nor grasp adequately the significance of his part in the founding and development of the city which has its roots in the trading post, hotel, blacksmith shop and postoffice located 71 years ago on the little strip of "no man's land" cut off the Cherokee award by the establishment of the true Kansas Territorial line along the 37th parallel, North Latitude ---- unless we go back in contemplation and in fancy live over those early stirring times.

Col. Coffey was born in Gallatin county, Ill., Nov. 18, 1827. That is now 115 years ago, and were he living he would celebrate his 115th birthday anniversary this fall. He was the son of Achilles Coffey and Jane Dean Coffey. Achilles Coffey, like Abraham Lincoln, was born in Kentucky and James A. Coffey, father of Achilles Coffey was born in the state of Virginia in 1773, two years before the Revolutionary War broke out. Col. Coffey's maternal grandfather was the Rev. Jacob Dean, of Hamilton county, Ill. Achilles Coffey, who married Jane Dean, was a soldier and captain in the Black Hawk War. That over, he became a Baptist minister and later a fervent evangelist in the denomination.

This genealogy spelled a noble heritage for Col. Coffey. His grandfather a preacher, teacher and tiller of the soil; his father a man of such sterling character and with such an appraisal of the responsibilities of citizenship that he could shoulder a rifle and march unflinchingly against avenging Indians and the next year preach the gospel. Abraham Lincoln sprang from stock not altogether unlike this from which the founder of Coffeyville sprang.

But let us see a bit of the picture of the '50s in Kansas, for it must have been about this time when Col. Coffey's adventurous spirit began to fight for its release. He came to Kansas in 1854, the year of the Missouri Compromise.

The whole nation was already being shaken by the thunders of civil war. States Rights, Slavery, High Tariff, the Dred Scott Decision, the Missouri Compromise, Squatter's Sovereignty, Abolition were slogans of mighty portent. Uncle Tom's Cabin was coming from the trenchant pen of Harriett Beecher Stowe, while her illustrious brother, Dr. Henry Ward Beecher, was going up and down the highways and byways of the hostile South shouting abolition of slavery from the housetops. John Brown, with his twelve sons had trekked half way across a continent to engage the slave legions in battle, and to drive back the Missourians from whence they came.

Col. Coffey, the hero of this story, doubtless had been absorbing a lot of the spirit of those crucial times. We know that he was opposed to the institution of slavery, and of course, to its extension into the Kansas-Nebraska territory. It is easy to believe that his very soul was burning at this time to make demonstration, for he seems immediately after entering Kansas to have joined the forces of Brown and to have fought with that great martyr at LeCompton and Pottawatomie Creek. Twice he was taken prisoner by the aggressive Missourians and as many times quickly released.

But it was in those engagements and those experiences on march and in battle with John Brown's recruited army that Col. Coffey, in charge of the commissary, became a past-master in the art of purchase, storage, transportation and rationing of goods. It was the mastery of these fundamentals of pioneer trading and transportation that gave Col. Coffey the confidence to take up the role of Indian trader.

In his trek across Kansas, Col. Coffey established mercantile establishments in Westport Landing, along the Neosho, Verdigris, Arkansas and Cimarron rivers, going as far south as Pawhuska and as far north as the Dakotas where he mastered the dialects of two Indian tribes. Among the points where he started trading places were Olathe, Ottawa, Lawrence, Humboldt, Chetopa, Coffeyville, Pawhuska, Wichita, Larned and Dodge City. He laid out the town of Humboldt in 1859, the year that marked the birth of his oldest daughter, Laura Coffey, now Mrs. Laura Coffey Soderstrom Knight.

The residence which Col. Coffey built in Coffeyville would bear the street number "1503 Walnut Street", were it still standing. Chas. T. Carpenter purchased this site, moved the Coffey house across Walnut street to a rectangular lot on the west side of the street at Fifteenth street. The Coffey structure was razed about a dozen years ago. The Carpenter house was erected on the site of the original Coffey home.

C. Col. Coffey married in 1848, Mls Louise Carnahan of Gallatin County, Ill. She was born December 11, 1833, and died in Delta County, Colo. September 29, 1913. Notice of her death appears in the Coffeyville Journal of October 13, 1913.

Their five daughters were Laura, Irene, Amy, Lois and Lulu. Their only son was Eben A. Coffey, now deceased.

Laura, who was born in Humboldt, in 1859, married at 17, J. P. Soderstrom of the vicinity of Tyro. He was drowned at Pawhuska in 1903 and a few years later, she married F. P. Knight. _____?, who married a Mr. McIntyre, died in Arizona in 1905. Irene or Rena married John Moore and lives at Laveta, Colo. Amy married a man named Emerson, and she is living at Laveta, while Lulu married T. C. Murdock and lives at Laveta.

News of Col. Coffey's death appeared in the Ford County Globe of January 14, 1879, published at Dodge City, Kansas. The headline reads: "Col. Coffey Dead of Pneumonia." The item follows: "Col. James A. Coffey, after a week's sickness, died at his residence in this city yesterday (Jan. 13, 1879) at 12 o'clock M. Funeral services were at 2 o'clock this afternoon at Union Church, from whence the remains were taken to the Prairie Grove cemetery, which will be his final resting place."

In the Globe, November 5, 1878, appears this item: "Col. Coffey has recovered from his recent attack of fever." Then in the Larned Herald October 29, 1878, appears this item: "Messrs. Coffey and Marsh have taken their dry goods store to Dodge City. We recommend them to the good graces of the Dodgers and hope their new venture will prove a success to them."

However, as a matter of history, Prairie Grove cemetery was not the last resting place for the body of Col. Coffey. Encroachment of town building in Dodge City caused the removal of bodies buried there to a more recent cemetery. His grave, so far as learned here, has not yet been definitely identified and marked.

Descendents of Col. Coffey, include Mrs. Laura Coffey-Soderstrom Knight, eldest daughter, her daughter, Mrs. Della (B. F.) Parsons, both of Pawhuska, other daughters, Mrs. Hanna (John) Renfrow and sons, Ebbie, Walter, Carl and Floyd Soderstrom. Mrs. Renfrow, born on a farm near Tyro, and Mrs. L. E. Butler of Coffeyville, born about the same time, have been intimate friends down through the years. Ebbie, oldest of the Soderstrom boys, suffered injuries in an automobile accident near Coffeyville a few years ago and was a patient in a hospital here for several days.

Copied from: C. C. Drake's "Who's Who in Coffeyville and Vicinity."

Town of Coffeyville as a stage - -

THE original town of Coffeyville was built on the site of one of the chief open-air dramatic stages, which, seventy years ago, marked the onset of the Osages and the ingress of the White men. That stage had no director, no artificial scenery nor properties of any sort—yet there was enacted here one of the great ethnological melodramas of American history. Here a race, whose ancestry dates back, so far as we know, to the middle ages, a race steeped in the tribal traditions of centuries, relinquished its far flung empire of millions of acres of land it had occupied, to a government of white men grown paternalistic toward the Red men everywhere in the United States—and migrated into territory set apart by that government arbitrarily as the final abode of numerous civilized Indian tribes.

Contemporary publications and textbooks indicated the Osages were reluctant to yield to the desire they had helped to formulate by treaty and many of them settled in Montgomery county for months before crossing the state line. But the Gargantuan surge of multitudes of pioneer white men was irresistible. They came by the tens of thousands to claim in one way or another the lands so recently possessed by the Osages.

A distinguished gateway into The Territory was west of the Verdigris river and over that bottleneck-pathway vast hordes of these bereft aborigines tramped through the months following the completion of the Drum Creek and other treaties, negotiated in the late sixties, enroute to their new abode, where their possessions perhaps were bordered by the lines of a single county.

NEW DESTINY FOR TRIBES

This treatise cannot be concerned with the merits of those treaties. But we can point out the elements of drama that spelled a new dispensation and a new destiny for the Osages (and other tribes). They must have been vibrant of human emotion—sentiment and sadness—and we believe that so long as recorded American history endures, the exodus of the Osages from Kansas and the influx of white men to occupy and use their former acres will have marked one of the most significant incidents in the annals of western settlement.

And the site of the Town of Coffeyville was a part of the thoroughfare that led to the bottleneck of that Indian exodus and no doubt that fact was the deciding factor in the establishing of a trading post on the west bank of the Verdigris just before it passed into the lowlands subject to overflow.

INDIAN TRADE PROFITABLE

Chief Black Dog and scores of his followers were long camped on the high ground east and south of the present Walnut street. The Osages were on government pay at this junction as were some members of the Cherokee, Delaware, Creek and other tribes.

When their squaws went shopping—and they did—they sought bargains in brilliant blankets, factory moccasins, dried meats, tinikets and sometimes fire water for the bucks. In exchange for these the Indians would turn in furs, hides, vegetables, corn, wampum and make up the difference with money. Wampum was frequently regarded as a medium of exchange and had a constant value. The trade of these Indians at that period was most valuable. The trading post also enjoyed a brisk trade from cattle drivers and herdsmen, all of whom were mounted. Many of them were paid off here as Parker was the end of the run for many Texas grazed cattle. Added to these two types of customers the trading post found the ever-increasing white settlers, a new and profitable source of trade. This developed the natural cluster of pioneer lines of business, making the fourth source of trade and revenue.

The trading post soon became a vital necessity. Demand for goods often exceeded the ability to supply. Advertising was an unknown and an unneeded art.

NAMED AFTER COFFEY

Coffeyville was named after Col. James A. Coffey, that restless pioneer, whose vision of the future of Kansas and the West in general, seven to eight decades past, fitted him with such zeal that his life took on many of the properties of the adventurer as he ever pushed on toward the setting sun, establishing trading posts and laying out towns as he proceeded.

TOWN COMPANY IS FORMED

Among these accessory buildings were the large two-story structure on the east side of Mulberry street, at Fifteenth street, erected by N. B. Blanton and in which he operated a hotel. Another building was erected and occupied as a blacksmith shop by E. Y. Keat, while in still another building on Fifteenth street, S. B. Hickman kept a stock of general merchandise and acted in the capacity of postmaster. The Coffey house was erected on the site of the modern residence of C. T. Carpenter. When Mr. Carpenter purchased the Coffey residence, the house was moved northward and westward across Walnut street to Fourteenth street at Walnut. A portion of the foundation of the Coffey home is still under the Carpenter residence. The Coffey house was razed about 1930.

In August 1859, Col. Coffey, Blanton, Ed Tagon, John Clarkson and William Wilson formed a company and dedicated Coffey's entire site as a township to be known as "The Village of Coffeyville." The village depended upon trade with the Indians, mostly Osage and upon cattle grazing and herding, the destiny of these cattle, for the greater part, being Westport. Settlers filtered in and some farming was done during the first two years. In the meantime, the firms of Barron & Hebbens, Read Bros., C. W. Mann and J. S. Buros were added to the trading houses of the village of Coffeyville.

NO TITLES AVAILABLE

Both Coffeyville and Parker sites were laid out on land first believed to belong to Indian Territory, but which a government corrective survey placed in Kansas. This survey had been made in 1870, but actual title to the strip, which was about two and one-half miles in width at the Verdigris river, had never been patented by the government after the geographical switch. Hence, only a type of squatter settlement could be made in either Parker or Coffeyville. The north border of this strip was the site of the present Twelfth street, which line marked the north limit of the village of Coffeyville and had once marked the south boundary of Kansas. On the east side of the Verdigris the original state line ran just north of the site of the Vidito store. The strip previously had been ceded to the Cherokee Nation.

In 1871 the cattle-shipping and trade possibilities of northern Montgomery county were recognized by the promoters of the L. L. & G. Railroad Company, which began extension of its tracks toward this region in that year.

Octave Chanute was superintendent and chief engineer for the L. L. & G. railroad and was in charge of its extension project. The railroad company, doubtless governed by the little difficulty experienced in the strip, selected a site for its terminal city in Kansas, designating it as in "Section 36 township 34 range 10, east."

This site was surveyed and platted and the action became a matter of record in the probate court of Montgomery county, June 22, 1871 as "Railroad addition to the city of Coffeyville." The plat was filed October 20, 1871, at the Montgomery county register of deeds office.

HISTORY OF COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS

Directly north of the Kansas-Oklahoma line, close to the Missouri border, you may locate this thriving industrial city, but in the early days, to the cowboy, Coffeyville was known as "Cow Town". It was the shipping point for great herds of cattle. Crossing the Verdigris River came cowboys and cattlemen by the score to this settlement, once coveted Indian land.

Much freighting was done south and west. Great teams of oxen would come loaded with supplies. When the time came for the payoff, the town would be filled with strangers. Cattlemen, cowboys, soldiers and Indians flocked to the town and combined to make a rolistering picture. Indians came from a hundred miles to trade, and clothed in their native garb of brilliantly colored blankets, they added much to the scene.

In the words of an early settler --- "From Twelfth Street south stretched a vast unbroken prairie for many miles into the Cherokee Nation (one of the five civilized tribes). Vast herds of cattle pastured there in the fall, the dry grass often caught fire and furnished for miles around, catacracts and hurricanes of roaring flames that lighted the sky with awe-inspiring clouds."

To this Kansas territory came Colonel James A. Coffey, a typical pioneer, resourceful, energetic, restless. Born in Illinois in 1827 (died 1879) and coming to this part of the country in 1854, he had joined John Brown at the engagement of Lecompton and was twice taken prisoner by the pro-slavery forces. Colonel Coffey is said to have acquired two Indian languages, speaking them fluently. He established trading posts along various rivers; and in July, 1868, built a store and his home near the Verdigris River. As the town was first located on a tract of land known as "The Strip", and had not been included in the lands of the Diminished Reserve when the Osage ceded territory to the United States Government, title could not be obtained by settlers wishing to homestead or purchase; so a new Coffeyville spurted ahead of the old. A few families had grouped themselves around the trading post of Col. Coffey and in August of 1869, this group formed a town company, naming it in honor of the original white occupant of the site. Two Coffeyvilles, fighting each other, was the result and combining to fight a third town of Parker for supremacy and transportation.

Three railroads were in the course of construction from Missouri. By an Act of Congress, the one which should first reach the south line of the state would be granted a free right-of-way across the Indian Territory. A sharp contest ensued with the Missouri-Kansas-Texas winning the right-of-way. Many were the legal battles fought between friends and neighbors.

After there were two first Mayors, Coffeyville became a city of the third class as approved by the state legislature, February 26, 1872. Today Coffeyville is a first class city.

DALTON RAID

The Dalton Raid of October 5, 1892, has provided a story from which a movie was made a few years ago; (premier held here in Coffeyville) and also has been enacted for local celebrations. The bandits who galloped into Coffeyville that bright autumn day were the three Dalton brothers, Bob, Gratten and Emmett; and two confederates, Dick Powers and Dick Broadwell. After robbing the two banks, the Condon and the First National, of nearly \$25,000, in their attempt to escape, four of the bandits were shot by courageous citizens who had armed themselves with guns and revolvers. Four of the citizens, however, paid with their lives. In less than one-half hour, eight men met their deaths. For his part in the raid, Emmett, the youngest, got a life sentence in the Kansas Penitentiary at Lansing. He served fourteen years until pardoned and died at the age of sixty-six in Los Angeles, California, July 14, 1937.

Newspaper Clipping --- 1935.

TODAY IS 108TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF J. A. COFFEY, FOUNDER OF COFFEYVILLE
(By C. C. Drake)

Today is "Coffey" day in Coffeyville. It marks the 108th anniversary of the birth of Col. James A. Coffey, founder of the "Town of Coffeyville," which was organized in August 1869, and from which eventually sprang the city of Coffeyville.

Col. Coffey was an adventurous spirit, a typical pioneer, strong on the scent for Indian trade, adaptable to any and all conditions of life, resourceful, energetic, thrifty, restless, nomadic --- a born leader of men, imaginative, picturesque, self-reliant, honest, initiative. He was fascinated by the glamour of a receding frontier, born in the quietude of an established order, but destined to die within the shadow of Boot Hill at a time when Dodge City was ruled by two-gun men as epitomized by Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane.

Col. Coffey died long before he had reached the so-called allotted span of life, but he lived intensely and the earmarks of his sagacity and the footprints of his restless feet still may be discerned after the lapsing of three score years of time. He lived in Kansas less than a quarter of a century, yet during that period he had been soldier, farmer, merchant, miller, stock trader, postmaster and had reared a family of sturdy and talented children, most of whom are living and holding an abiding affection for the community which still pays homage to the memory of their father.

OLDER THAN PARKER

Historians generally seem to assume that Parker was a thriving town at the time Coffeyville got a start. Yet, as a matter of record, it is said that the Parker Town Company was incorporated in September, or more than a month after Coffey had organized his town company. Major W. H. Martin was president of the town of Parker and D. T. Parker of the Southwest Stage Lines was secretary. The town's full name was Parkersburg, meaning Parker village.

But, since this day and this story are primarily in honor of Col. Coffey, there is presented such facts about the life of the founder of Coffeyville, as his daughter, Mrs. Laura Knight, was able to furnish to Mrs. Earl Moulder of this city, one of a group of women interested in organizing a D. A. R. chapter, or circle, about the Coffey family tree. The data follows:

Col. Coffey was born in Gallatin county, Ill., Nov. 18, 1827, and died in Dodge City, Kan., in 1879 and was buried there.

His father was Achilles Coffey, born in Kentucky in 1804. He lived in Saline county, Ill.

His grandfather was James A. Coffey, born in Virginia in 1773 but who before he died had lived also in Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois.

His father's mother's maiden name was Lane.

His mother's father was the Rev. Jacob Dean, a resident of Hamilton county, Illinois, who died in 1853.

Col. Coffey's wife was Louise Carnahan, to whom he was married in 1848. She was born December 11, 1833, and died September 18, 1913, at Austin, Tex. (sic)

His mother was Jane Dean-Coffey.

Achilles Coffey was a captain in the Black Hawk war and afterwards became a Baptist minister. He is said to have lived in Coffeyville for two or three years in the early seventies.

Col. Coffey was the third of a family of twelve children. He learned to write after he was married. He moved to Kansas in 1854 and settled four miles south of Lawrence. He was opposed to the introduction of slavery in the Kansas territory and was with James H. Lane and John Brown in the capture of Washington

Creek Fort and at the engagement of Lecompton, part of the time as Commissary. He was twice taken prisoner by pro-slavery parties. In 1859 he became associated with Oliver Marsh. Together they established trading posts on the Neosho, Verdigris and Arkansas rivers, the latter post where Wichita now stands. He was able to have acquired two Indian languages and to have spoken each fluently. In 1857 the firm laid out the town of Humboldt.

HAD A STORE AT CHETOPA

In 1865 Coffey and Marsh sold out their entire business and moved to Kansas City, Mo., where they started a wholesale grocery business. Coffey took a large stock to the Dakota territory and traded with the Sioux Indians for one year. Coffey and Marsh dissolved partnership in 1868 and Coffey went to Westport landing, where he sold merchandise.

In 1869, Coffey went to Chetopa and did merchandising.

In 1870, he pre-empted land on the west side of the Verdigris river and almost opposite Parker. There he built a store and house and erected a sawmill and a grain mill. He also did some farming north of Coffeyville, but mostly his business was trading with the Osage Indians, a trade he maintained until 1875. A comment in a sketch of Col. Coffey, probably written in about 1878, said:

"Col. Coffey was foremost in every enterprise for the promotion of public interest and on this account the town of Coffeyville was named in his honor. In the effort to build up and develop the town he lavished his time and money and greatly aided in the constructing of the L. L. and Gulf Railway."

In the spring of 1878 Coffey moved to Dodge City.

His daughters are Mrs. Laura Knight, 539 Pearson avenue, Pawhuska, Okla.; Mrs. Irene Moore, St. Joseph Avenue, Long Beach, Calif.; and Mrs. Amy Emerson and Mrs. T. C. Murdock, Loveta, Colo. A son, E. A. Coffey, 83, lives at Austin, Colo. Mrs. Knight's first husband was John P. Soderstrom, who was drowned at Pawhuska in 1903. She married F. P. Knight of Pawhuska four years ago. She visited Coffeyville in May, 1934. Accompanying her at the time was her daughter Mrs. J. E. Renfrow of Miami, Okla. Mrs. Knight was born at Humboldt, August 2, 1859. She now is 76 years old. She was ten years old when she came to Coffeyville.

It has been suggested from time to time here that Coffeyville proclaim Nov. 18th to be "Coffeyville day", a day set aside for honoring the memory of this daring founder and for remembering the the hundreds of pioneer men and women from whom came the heritage that the second, third and fourth generations here now are enjoying.

DAUGHTER MIGHT ATTEND

A daughter, Laura Coffey-Soderstrom-Knight, lives at Pawhuska, and if the celebration of "Coffey day" should be held a year or two years hence, it is believed she would be glad to come here as an honor guest of the occasion. Perhaps the Coffeyville Junior Chamber, which sponsored the Pioneer day celebration in 1933, would like to take over the proposed celebration.

At the time of Col. Coffey's decision to establish a trading post here, he procured a patent to a tract of land within what was termed "The Strip," a narrow strip of land lying between the southern border of the Kansas-Nebraska territory and the established northern border of the Indian territory. It was several years before deed titles to any of this strip could be obtained. Parker lay wholly within the same strip. The north border of this strip coincided approximately with the present Twelfth street in Coffeyville. Deeds could be obtained to land lying to the north of this line --- and therein lay the big secret of the rapid growth of the new Coffeyville, which sprang up a year later on the site of the present Coffeyville.

The Coffey trading post was located at the intersection of the present Fifteenth and Maple streets. The Coffey home, a log structure, later boxed, was located just west of the present M-K-T right-of-way on the north side of Fifteenth street. So close was this pioneer residence to the right-of-way that when excavation for the tracks had been completed only room for a narrow pathway was left on the east side of the Coffey house. To emphasize the narrowness of this pathway the following incident is related:

Clarence A. Lang, now chief of police but then a carrier boy for the Journal, rode a pony on his route. One evening, after a heavy rain that made the path muddy and slippery, the pony slipped down the embankment, taking its rider with it. The embankment was all of eight feet high.

The Coffey house was razed a quarter of a century ago. It is said that after this house was removed, other houses in the vicinity came to be pointed out as the former home of Col. Coffey, and some of their wood became sacred.

Associated with Col. Coffey in the incorporation of a "town company," were N. D. Blanton, Ed Fagan, John Clarkson and William Wilson.

121-A

Newspaper clipping --- 1932 --- From Irena Coffey Moore's Collection ---

OLDEST "FINE HOME" IN COFFEYVILLE, MAKES WAY FOR MARCH OF PROGRESS

Way back in 1870 -- sixty-two years ago -- Col. J. A. Coffey built the first "fine home" in Coffeyville, down by the corner of Fifteenth and Walnut streets. Yesterday it was torn down within a few rods of its original site and today the very ground upon which it stood is being by a giant power shovel and hauled away.

The house was built originally on the exact spot where the home of C. T. Carpenter now stands, about two years after Colonel Coffey had come to Coffeyville to open the first store, at a point approximately where Mulberry and Fifteenth streets now intersect. This was about the time when N. B. Blanton, surveyor, aided Colonel Coffey in laying out the original township of Old Coffeyville, which extended southward along the Verdigris river, from the present Twelfth street. In those days Twelfth street marked the northern boundary of the Osage diminished reserve, a narrow strip running east and west and extending southward to what is now the Oklahoma state line. About two years later, the "new-Coffeyville" section was added, extending the city, northward into Kansas.

About 1880, the house was moved by Chas. T. Carpenter, who had purchased it, to the site which it had occupied until yesterday, 1416 Walnut street. There the old house stood just the same as ever, while the telegraph lines, railways, telephones, water, gas, sewage lines, paved highways and even a high-power radio broadcasting station came into being within sight of it. Three rooms downstairs, two more upstairs, the old building never changed its original outward appearance, either by addition or subtraction. Across the way, Mr. Carpenter built a large new modern home upon the original foundation of the old house.

Now comes Harley J. Burger, the latest owner, to demolish the old house and clear its site for possible later erection of more modern edifices, following failure of several half-hearted attempts to have the old house purchased by the city and converted into a local museum.

And as the laborers tear the old house piece from piece, idlers stand by and remark about the home sawed timbers of black walnut and white oak, plinoned together with oaken pins and nailed with wrought iron nails. A yellow pine floor of only a score of years of service is torn up to reveal an older floor of yellow, five-inch boards and the ceiling in the kitchen is removed to show the original ceiling of almost seventy years ago.

Uncovered, also, are other relics of another day -- a tiny bottle from which some lady of the gay 90's drew "Ascension Lily" perfume, an old fiddle key which must have figured in some gay old hoe-down, an old bone-handled butcher knife, pieces of an old home-made bird cage, a few old beer bottles and a little two quart brown jug -- empty, alas -- hidden deep within the brick and mortar base of the chimney.

Newspaper clipping --- 1932 --- From Irena Coffey Moore's Collection ---

BUT HE GOT THE JUG ---- THE REST OF THE NEWS ---

A sequel to the story concerning the tearing down of the old Col. Coffey house, which appeared in Friday's Journal, was enacted late Saturday afternoon.

It will be remembered the story mentioned a small brown jug which had been found imbedded in the base of the chimney. The story didn't say so, but the reporter who wrote the story fancied that the best relic of the whole affair would be that little jug -- the only thing about the old house which remained intact. But Harley Burger, directing the razing of the old house, absent-mindedly had tossed the jug into the old cistern.

"Fishing" for the lost pottery with a garden rake, bent iron rods, boards with nails in them, and other impromptu equipment, failed to produce the jug after two days of effort by urchins of the neighborhood who had heard the lament of the lost jug. "Doc" L. M. Campbell, excavation engineer obligingly bumped the cistern with his big power shovel, but the leak lowered the stale, slimy water only three feet. Anybody but a fanatic would have given up the search.

But the reporter was determined to have that jug. He sought the help of Joe Werndl, who recently assumed the agency for a compact gasoline fire pump, designed for villages and country communities which have no water systems. Joe is a German who realized that jugs are things of value -- used to be, anyhow. So a neighbor was prevailed upon to lend his small auto truck and the 170-pound, four-cylinder fire pump was carted out to the cistern.

In less time than it takes to read this story, the little pump had put 150 pounds of pressure behind the cistern water, spurting it generously over the immediate vicinity. It was a simple matter then to fetch the little brown jug out of the cistern and back to civilization. It was a lot of trouble, but the relic of Col. Coffey's house is preserved for posterity. As an added reward, an old coffee mill was also found in the old cistern --- about a hundred years old, in the opinion of men who were present at the rescue.

121-C

Newspaper clipping --- Unknown Date --- Irena Coffey Moore's Collection

.....that Col. Coffey was coming down south of the river to keep a herd of cattle. Col. Coffey at that time was about 35 years of age. Tall, of slender proportion, with a little stoop to his shoulders, he was a fine looking man and had the appearance of being a gentleman, which he always proved to be.

"He was a typical pioneer. A native of Illinois, he had come west in the early days and followed up the settlement of the country. As fast as a section became organized he with restless energy moved to the frontier and blazed the way for other people. He was happier in a tent in the woods, surrounded by Indians and with a frontier outfit than he could possibly have been in a richly appointed mansion.

"He had founded the town of Humboldt, giving a twenty dollar bill for the town site, and when that town had settled up he came to Coffeyville."

In the meantime he freighted some

123 A, B and C

These were copies of the Indian Herald, published in 1876. The quality of the original would not allow reproduction, but the subject matter adds nothing to the Coffey story. (Editor)

GENERAL JOHN COFFEY

Since General John Coffey was a distat relative of our family and so well known historically, it has been suggested that I write a brief sketch about him.

Quoting from the biography of our grand-father, Col. James A. Coffey,

"General John Coffey who served with Gen. Jackson in the War of 1812, was a member of our family."

As told in the Coffey-Cleveland papers ----

"Said Rice was a cousin of Gen. John Coffey who commanded a brigade with Gen. Jackson in the War of 1812-1815, and who was born June 2nd, 1772 and died in Florence, Ala., July 7th, 1833, and was the son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Graves) Coffey of Virginia."

The said Rice Coffey was a brother of the 'first' Achilles Coffey.

Both General Jackson and General Coffey were raised in North Carolina and neither had military training. Jackson was educated to be a lawyer and Coffey was educated to be a surveyor; and both located in western Tennessee early in life. Jackson was a tall rangy man and ambitious for high office, while Coffey was more interested in developing the country east of the Mississippi in the role of a surveyor as the entire country had not been surveyed. It is interesting to note the similarities of two Coffeys in-as-much as they both were pathfinders and developers of our virgin country: General John Coffey east of the Mississippi and Colonel James A. Coffey west of the Great River.

Quoting information sent by Mr. McBride ---

"General John Coffey was regarded as great of body and heart. He was tall, broad-shouldered, gentle in manner but brave and intelligent -- When Aaron Burr was making Jackson believe that war with Spain was imminent, Jackson suggested John Coffey as his first choice as colonel of one of the regiments to be raised in Tennessee. It is not remarkable then that John Coffey was colonel of a regiment that went out from Tennessee in the second war with Great Britain."

Jackson and Coffey, so different in temperament and physically were life long friends. They bluffed the Spanish to part with Florida on easy terms, and their victory over the British veterans at New Orleans was one of history's decisive battles.

When General Jackson became president, he made General John Coffey and family welcome as permanent guests, and it was his pleasure that John Coffey's daughter had a White House wedding.

How true it is --- that fact is more interesting than fiction.

#140 --- A deed for approximately fifty acres located at Westport (which later became Kansas City, Kansas), which was granted to Grand-mother, Louisa A. Coffey. This tract was mentioned in my mother's letter (#114) and here was located the Coffey home, no doubt where Aunt Lulu was born. Later here was located a city park and fine residential district.

#141 --- A deed from the United States of America, signed by President Chester A. Arthur. The instrument was #72 issued by the land-office at Garden City, Kansas, which was a grant of one hundred sixty acres to grand-mother Louisa A. Coffey which she proved up on under the Homestead Act. This acreage was about fifteen miles southeast of Dodge, and here she built a nice house.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 774
APPLICATION 104

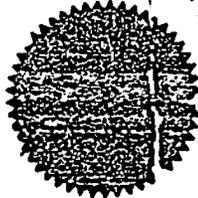
Whereas There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Warden City, Kansas, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Louisa A. Coffey has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the south west quarter of section twenty eight, in township twenty nine north of range twenty second of the Sixth Principal Meridian, in Kansas, containing one hundred and sixty acres

according to the Official Plat of the survey of the said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General:

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Louisa A. Coffey

the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Louisa A. Coffey and to her heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, F. Chester Arthur President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.



Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the twenty fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty five and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and seventh

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Chester A. Arthur

J. H. Leonard Secretary
No. 774
Records of the General Land Office.

The following information was added by John Coffey, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, about 1970.

This is the marriages of the children of Lawrence Lesenby Coffey, who was born August 20, 1841, and his wife, Mary Glascock Coffey, who was born August 2, 1852.

1. Orelia Coffey married Dr. W. D. Ezel, Saline County, Illinois, 7-20-1884.
2. Amon Matthews married Pauline Hunt, Saline County, Illinois, 7-8-1886.
3. Ethan Coffey married Agnes Reed, Portland Oregon, 1916.
4. Edd Coffey married Mable Miller, Van Buren, Arkansas, 12-14-1904.
5. Ollie Coffey married B. D. Matthews, Cordell, Oklahoma, 2-14-1904.
6. Maude Coffey married Sam Randle, Bessie, Oklahoma, 3-1-1905.
7. Ethel Coffey married Paul G. Reeves, Cordell, Oklahoma, 1-22-1905.

Ollie (Coffey) Matthews and B. D. Matthews had at least the following children:

- Helen Matthews, born October 15, 1906.
- Mary Matthews, born January 3, 1916.

Amon Hume Coffey and his wife, Pauline (Hunt) Coffey, had at least the following children:

1. Grace
2. Earl
3. Allie
4. May
5. Noah

At another location in the original, John Coffey has added:

Amon Hume Coffey, was born Oct. 17, 1865.

His wife: Pauline Hunt.

Grace Coffey married Mr. Morris. They had following children:

1. Albert Morris
2. Earl Morris
3. Josephine Morris
4. Helen Morris
5. Leonard Morris
6. Lloyd L. Morris

Earl Coffey; deceased, no children.

Allie Coffey married Mr. Fields, had at least two children;

1. Ferne Fields
2. Steve K. Fields

May Coffey, deceased.

Nellie Coffey had two children:

1. Ferne Malcomb
2. Ruth Cherry

Noah Eddie Coffey, married Dora Dean, sister to George Dean.

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