

MEMO: JEAN DEEVERS

SUBJECT: MARTIN COFFEY ( WILLIAM MARTIN)

PRESUMING MARTIN JR WAS NAMED AFTER HIS FATHER, WM SR..

First thing is census record from Wayne County--1820, after Martin married NANCY HANSFORD (HEREFORD) in 1817...census reads as: ;

2 sons under age 10.....one was James Gabriel, other was Lewis @ 8 yrs.

2 males ages 16- 20 Martin Jr<sup>age 2</sup> 19 Joel age<sup>16</sup>

1 male over age 25.....1st James from 1st marriage or 2<sup>nd</sup>

1 female 10-15..... Elizabeth.....age 12

Polly married, with Martin giving surety, in 1809, to William Ward in Wayne Co., She was 17 or 18, making her birth approx. 1792.

What does NOT make sense as to Eliz Bronson being parent is --if she and our Martin married in 1783, why is there such a difference to 1792 for Mary "Polly"'s birth.....and even Jas B....? *No other children mentioned.*

I know for sure Martin once was married to Nancy Edwards in 1788; after finding the marriage to Elizabeth Bronson I thought there had been a mistake in names. But when my father--Evan Goode Coffey, and my mother went to visit the old family (COFFEY) farm in the 1950s, they were told that Nancy Edwards was Martin's wife from England--to--Virginia, they married in N.C.. I didn't find the record myself.

It makes more sense as to birth dates for Joel, Lewis. Elizabeth, Martin Jr, all at right ages in the 1820 census in Wayne Co...Polly had already married when Martin married his young Nancy Hansford(Hereford) and became parents of Jas Gabriel, my great grandfather, who married Martha Patsy Tucker--daughter of Moses and Eliz Johnson Tucker....Wayne Co.....

The more I get into MARTIN's LURID-LOVER past, I feel he was on the move with several wives who either died young with one of the plagues going around, or in childbirth in the no-sanitation days. Most men out-lived wives who gave abundance of offspring. Martin surely out-lived many people..

I am 71, my husband, Owen, is almost 72. We love genealogy, painting--I do portrait media in oil; he is an Architect/Engineer. We write fiction and non-fiction together. I still enjoy the public--that's why I am working, after spending most of our 47 yrs raising three children....now a 17 yr old granddaughter and a two yr old granddaughte by another son. My daughter is a Chef-computer expert, unmarried and near 40. I, also, use the computer for genealogy--and-- the Morman Church library, which is ~~that~~ too far from our home. I belong to the Christian Church, not Morman, either.

2-21-92 Sincerely, Jean

*Plan Deavers*

HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105

1: 15 Sep 1762/1766 PLACE: ,,,VA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 27 Nov 1867 PLACE: ,,,KY  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 MARR: 1783 PLACE: ,,Wilkes Co,NC  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

has other marriages

WIFE Elizabeth BRONSON-2137

BORN: Abt 1765 PLACE:  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Polly COFFEY-2127

---- BORN: Abt 1788/1793 PLACE:  
 P CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE: William WARD-2124

MRIN: 754

MARR: 26 Feb 1809 PLACE: ,,Wayne Co,KY

2. NAME: James Bronson COFFEY-1106

---- BORN: PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: Lewis COFFEY-1459

---- BORN: PLACE: prob,,,KY  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Joel COFFEY-1107

---- BORN: Abt 1797/1800 PLACE: ,,,KY  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Aft 16 Jul 1860 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE: Ann-2115

MRIN: 743

MARR: PLACE:

Judith M. White  
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 Chugiak, AK 99567

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FAMILY GROUP RECORD-762  
DOCUMENTATION

3 Mar 1992

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Elizabeth BRONSON-2137

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1765

HUSBAND - Martin COFFEY-1105

BIRTH:

- (1) Kaye Stanley gives exact birth date as 9/15/1766
- (2) Ethelyn Coffey states family records and Bible records of two grandsons who had not been in contact with one another both show date as 9/15/1762.
- (3) Place:
  - (a) Following records show him b NC: his 1850 census record; second marriage record of son James Gabriel; 1880 census record of son Golsen Wilson.
  - (b) Following records show him b VA: his 1860 census record; 1880 census records of son Andrew, dau Polly Meadows
  - (c) In bio sketch of his greatgrandson, John Henry Johnson (son of Sarah Meadows, daughter of Polly Coffee), found in IL county history: "The mother of our subject . . . was a lineal descendant in the maternal line of Martin Coffee, who came from England to America and died in Kentucky at the age of one hundred and one years. A large estate in England was left by a member of this family but the record is not sufficiently complete to prove the claims of our subject's family upon it."
  - (d) Following census records show him b KY: 1880 census record of son James Gabriel.
- (4) I am inclined to think that he was born either in England or VA, that he went from VA to NC, and then to KY. It is his younger children who refer to him as born NC or KY.

MARRIAGES:

- (1) To Elizabeth Bronson--See notes on Elizabeth Bronson.
- (2) To Nancy Phelps--See notes on Nancy Phelps
- (3) To Nancy Heriford--See notes on Nancy Heriford
- (4) Note that Jean Deavers says he had an 1788 marriage to Nancy Edwards. If so, this likely to have been 2nd marriage.

DEATH:

- (1) Kaye Stanley gives exact death date as 11/27/1867.

CENSUS:

1820--Wayne Co, KY [f/Ethelyn]

males under 10: 2 [Surmise: James G (2), one other]  
males 16-26: 2 [Surmise: Martin, Jr (~16), Joel (~20/23)]  
males 26-45: 1 [Surmise: Martin, really ~54/58]  
females 10-16: 2 [Surmise: Elizabeth (~10/16) & one other]  
females 16-26: 1 [Surmise: wife Nancy]  
females under 10: 3 [Surmise: Nancy (~7), Artemasiah (~3), Francis (~1)]

1830--Russell Co, KY [f/Ethelyn]

males under 5: 2 [Surmise: John C (2) & one other]  
males 5-10: 2 [Surmise: Andrew (6) & Gholson Wilson (8)]  
males 10-15: 1 [Surmise: James, (12)]  
males 60+: 1 [Surmise: Martin]  
females 10-15: 2 [Surmise: Artemasiah (~13/14) & Francis (~11/12)]  
females 30-40: 1 [Surmise: wife Nancy]

1840--Russell Co, KY [f/Ethelyn]

males 10-15: 1 [Surmise: John (12)]  
males 15-20: 2 [Surmise: Andrew (16) & Gholson Wilson (18)]

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
Elizabeth BRONSON-2137

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1765

males 60-70: 1 [Surname: Martin]  
females 15-20: 1 [Surname: Francis (~21/22)]  
females 40-50: 1 [Surname: wife Nancy]

1850 census, Russell Co, KY--He is in HH headed by Andrew Coffey. He is shown as Martain, 82, m, farmer, b NC. Listed just after Martin in HH is Nancy. He CAN read and write according to census. [Second Dist; HH408/408]  
1860 census, Russell Co, KY--Martin Coffey heads HH711/711. He is 94, M, farmer, born VA. Only other HH member is Nancy Coffey, 65, F, born KY  
Note: HH710--his son Golson Wilson; HH709--his daughter Frances; HH708--William Coffey (probably grandson)

LIFE:

Mostly F/Ethelyn Coffey

8/17/1798--Madison Co, KY Marriage records--Martin Coffey married to Nancy Phelps. "Bond" Shad Phelps.

1799--Green County, KY lists Martin Coffe, 1 white male over 21.

1800--Green County, KY tax list shows a Martin Coffy

1803--Adair County, KY. Tax list: Martin Coffey, 1 white male over 21

1804--Adair County, KY. Tax list: Mortain Coffey 1 white male over 21

Mar. 4, 1805--Adair County, KY Court Orders 1802-1808, Vol. 1--Martin Coffey made proof for 319 acres on forks of the Roaring Lilly. (p. 145)

1805--Adair County, KY. Tax list: Martin Coffey 1 white male over 21 plus 319 acres.

1807--Adair County, KY Tax list: martin Coffey 1 white male over 21.

1809--Parents consent by oath of Martin Coffey to 2/26/1809 marriage, Wayne County, KY of William Ward & Polly Coffey.

1810--[Not in 1810 census, but probably in Wayne County] Jeff Simmons suggests that one of the entries for "Nathan" in 1810 might be for Martin.

1836--Wayne Co marriage records show James G. Coffey married at home of Martin Coffey.

Martin's family is found in 1870 census in Pct 4, Wolf Creek. Perhaps that is the part of Russell County where they always lived.

Other marriages:

17 Aug 1798 Nancy PHELPS-1457 MRIN: 359

1 Dec 1817 Nancy HERFORD-1461 MRIN: 524

WIFE - Elizabeth BRONSON-2137

BIRTH:

All info re this person f/1986 letter of Jean Deavers to Marvin Coffey. She writes:

"Martin married Elizabeth Bronson in Wilkes, N.C. in 1783. They had, as far as we know but cannot prove, James Bronson, Polly, Joel, Elizabeth, Lewis and William Martin. Evidently after Elizabeth died he came alone to Kentucky. Later his children came and settled in Wayne Co. We have records of Polly, Elizabeth and Martin Jr.'s marriages with Joel and Lewis as witnesses.

Martin remarried in 1817, to Nancy Hansford. They had my great granddad, James Gabriel Coffey in 1818, who was in the Civil War. His first son was my grandfather .....

2/16/1992--I spoke w/Jean Deavers. She told me she'd got her information

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Elizabeth BRONSON-2137

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1765

on this marriage f/Wilkes County records. She said the record shows it to be William Coffey to Elizabeth Bronson. Jean thinks Martin's name was William Martin.

CHILD 1 - Polly COFFEY-2127

BIRTH:

(1) See marriage info below. If she was at least 16 but less than 21, then she was born 1788-1793

MARRIAGE:

(1) Wayne County Marriage Records 1801-1806 by Bork, Vol. 2 states, "William Ward and Polly Coffey. Surety, Martin Coffee. Married 26 February 1809 by North East Esq. Endorsement on Bond: "Parents consent proven by the oath of Martin Coffee."

CHILD 2 - James Bronson COFFEY-1106

RELATIONSHIPS:

(1) In Pierce book on Meadows family re person C-7, she quotes letter f/Jacob Meadows to his brother Henry Meadows, husband of Polly Coffey Meadows. He spoke of "Sister Polly" and of her brothers Joel and James Coffey. Polly's family all well except her father who was old and ill. Letter was dated 7/11/1847 f/Russel Co, KY. Since Martin possibly had two sons named "James" I am not sure which one Jacob was referring to, but probably the younger one, who did live in Russell County at the time. [I.E., I do not think the reference was to this James Coffey.]

(2) IMPORTANT: All info re existence of this individual f/ Jean Deavers.

CHILD 3 - Lewis COFFEY-1459

BIRTH:

RELATIONSHIPS:

In 1986 letter to Marvin Coffey Jean Deavers names this individual as a child of Martin Coffey & Elizabeth Bronson.

OTHER:

(1) 1850 KY census index lists 3 Lewis Coffeys, described below:

- (a) Green Co--This Lewis is 27, b Russell Co. Shown w/wife Polly and 4 young children (1 son), none named Martin. He is possibly son of Martin, but not likely--too young to be son of this marriage. Would have had to be from marriage to Nancy Hereford.
- (b) Wayne Co--Two Lewis Coffeys on this page. One is 77, b VA, married to Bidy. This is the son of James Coffey who married Elizabeth Cleveland. The second Lewis, age 37, b KY, is 3 HHs away and likely is son of first.
- (c) Mason Co--This Lewis is 49, grocery keeper, b KY. HH also includes Charlotte (47) & 4 children (3 male, none named Martin).

There is insufficient info to conclude any of the above was Martin's son.

CHILD 4 - Joel COFFEY-1107

CENSUS: SEE ALSO BELOW UNDER "OTHER"

1850--Russell Co, KY--Second Dist; HH202/202--He heads HH; is shown as Joel Coffey, 53, m, farmer, b KY, cannot read or write. Other HH members (all w/surname Coffey & b KY except as noted): Ann (39,f, b VA), Allen (21,m),

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
Elizabeth BRONSON-2137

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1765

Isam (14,m), Joel (13,m), John W. (11,m), P??? (9,f), Julia A. (9,f), Nancy (6,f), Stewart (4,m), Mary Sharp, (84,f,b VA). This census dated 8/28/1850 1860--Russell Co, KY --[Dist of Russell; HH682]--He heads HH; is shown as Joel Coffey, 60, m, farmer, \$150, \$80, b KY. Other HH members (all w/surname Coffey & b KY): Ann (53), Isham (24), John (18), Prudence (16), Julia Ann (16), Nancy (14), ?Lewart (13), Daniel (9). Census dated 7/16/1860.

RELATIONSHIPS

(1) In Pierce book on Meadows family re person C-7, she quotes letter f/Jacob Meadows to his brother Henry Meadows, husband of Polly Coffey Meadows. He spoke of "Sister Polly" and of her brothers Joel and James Coffey. Polly's family all well except her father who was old and ill. Letter was dated 7/11/1847 f/Russel Co, KY.

OTHER:

(1) Assume that Joel did live in Russell County in 1850. There are two Joel Coffeys listed in 1850 Russell County census. Both were b KY. One was 32 (thus b abt 1818)--1st Dist; HH227; one was 53 (thus b abt 1797). I believe the second Joel is more likely Martin's son since he is located only 2 HHs f/Martin, Jr.

[NOTE: The next HH to this Joel is headed by Hugh French, age 78.

[Relationship????

(2) Continuing--There were 3 Joels in Russell Co in 1860, all b KY. One was 41 (HH335); one was 24 (HH556); one was 60. The last was clearly the same as identified above from 1850 census.

TO DO:

(1) Try to locate marriage record f/this Joel. Wife: Ann, age 39. First child listed is Allen, age 21. If he was first child, marriage likely to have been about 1827-1828. This may have been second marriage; note gap in age of first two children (2) Try to find this Joel in 1860 census. Was he still in (2) Try to find this Joel in 1860 census. Was he still in Russell County?

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 HUSBAND Martin COPPEY-1105  
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BORN: 15 Sep 1762/1766 PLACE: ,,VA  
 JR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 27 Nov 1867 PLACE: ,,KY  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 MARR: 1 Dec 1817 PLACE: ,,Wayne Co,KY has other marriages  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

 -----  
 WIFE Nancy HERFORD-1461  
 -----

BORN: Abt 1895 PLACE: ,,Russell Co,KY  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Abt 1870 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

 -----  
 CHILDREN  
 -----

1. NAME: James Gabriel COPPEY-1462  
 ---- BORN: 7 Sep 1818 PLACE: ,,Russell Co,KY  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 27 Jul 1897 PLACE: ,,Lincoln Co,KY  
 BUR.: PLACE: Campbell Cem,McKinney,Lincoln Co,KY has other marriages  
 SPOUSE: Martha "Patsy" TUCKER-1463 MRIN: 525  
 MARR: 31 Jul 1836 PLACE: ,,Wayne Co,KY

2. NAME: Frances COPPEY-2133  
 ---- BORN: Abt 1819 PLACE: ,,KY  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Abt Sep 1870 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: George W. BROWN-2132 MRIN: 761  
 MARR: 26 Aug 1844 PLACE: ,,Russell Co,KY

3. NAME: Golson Wilson COPPEY-2131  
 ---- BORN: Abt 1822 PLACE: ,,KY  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1906 PLACE: NE of,Lexington,Cleveland,OK  
 BUR.: PLACE: Coffey Cem,4 mi w Wanette,,OK  
 SPOUSE: Rebecca Ann SHACKLEFORD-2123 MRIN: 752  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Andrew COPPEY-2136  
 ---- BORN: Abt 1824 PLACE: ,,KY  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Abt Mar 1884 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Sarah A. BERNARD-2130 MRIN: 753  
 MARR: 29 Jun 1844 PLACE: ,,Russell Co,KY

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
 WIFE Nancy HEREFORD-1461

=====

Yr of Birth 1762  
 Yr of Birth 1895

CHILDREN (continued)

=====

5. NAME: John C. COFFEY-2129

---- BORN: Abt 1828 PLACE: ..,KY

M CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: Aft 1880 PLACE: prob,..,KS

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE: Nancy J. GODBEY-2128

NRIN: 759

MARR: PLACE:

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy HEREFORD-1461

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1895

HUSBAND - Martin COFFEY-1105

BIRTH:

- (1) Kaye Stanley gives exact birth date as 9/15/1766
- (2) Ethelyn Coffey states family records and Bible records of two grandsons who had not been in contact with one another both show date as 9/15/1762.
- (3) Place:
  - (a) Following records show him b NC: his 1850 census record; second marriage record of son James Gabriel; 1880 census record of son Golsen Wilson.
  - (b) Following records show him b VA: his 1860 census record; 1880 census records of son Andrew, dau Polly Meadows
  - (c) In bio sketch of his greatgrandson, John Henry Johnson (son of Sarah Meadows, daughter of Polly Coffee), found in IL county history:  
"The mother of our subject . . . was a lineal descendant in the maternal line of Martin Coffee, who came from England to America and died in Kentucky at the age of one hundred and one years. A large estate in England was left by a member of this family but the record is not sufficiently complete to prove the claims of our subject's family upon it."
  - (d) Following census records show him b KY: 1880 census record of son James Gabriel.
- (4) I am inclined to think that he was born either in England or VA, that he went from VA to NC, and then to KY. It is his younger children who refer to him as born NC or KY.

MARRIAGES:

- (1) To Elizabeth Bronson--See notes on Elizabeth Bronson.
- (2) To Nancy Phelps--See notes on Nancy Phelps
- (3) To Nancy Heriford--See notes on Nancy Heriford
- (4) Note that Jean Deavers says he had an 1788 marriage to Nancy Edwards. If so, this likely to have been 2nd marriage.

DEATH:

- (1) Kaye Stanley gives exact death date as 11/27/1867.

CENSUS:

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males 16-26: 2 [Surname: Martin, Jr (~16), Joel (~20/23)]  
males 26-45: 1 [Surname: Martin, really ~54/58]  
females 10-16: 2 [Surname: Elizabeth (~10/16) & one other]  
females 16-26: 1 [Surname: wife Nancy]  
females under 10: 3 [Surname: Nancy (~7), Artemasiah (~3), Francis (~1)]

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males 5-10: 2 [Surname: Andrew (6) & Gholson Wilson (8)]  
males 10-15: 1 [Surname: James, (12)]  
males 60+: 1 [Surname: Martin]  
females 10-15: 2 [Surname: Artemasiah (~13/14) & Francis (~11/12)]  
females 30-40: 1 [Surname: wife Nancy]

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy HEREFORD-1461

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1895

males 60-70: 1 [Surmise: Martin]  
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females 40-50: 1 [Surmise: wife Nancy]

1850 census, Russell Co, KY--He is in HH headed by Andrew Coffey. He is shown as Martain, 82, m, farmer, b NC. Listed just after Martin in HH is Nancy. He CAN read and write according to census. [Second Dist; HH408/408]  
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Note: HH710--his son Golson Wilson; HH709--his daughter Frances;  
HH708--William Coffey (probably grandson)

**LIFE:**

Mostly F/Ethelyn Coffey

8/17/1798--Madison Co, KY Marriage records--Martin Coffey married to Nancy Phelps. "Bond" Shad Phelps.

1799--Green County, KY lists Martin Coffe, 1 white male over 21.

1800--Green County, KY tax list shows a Martin Coffy

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1836--Wayne Co marriage records show James G. Coffey married at home of Martin Coffey.

Martin's family is found in 1870 census in Pct 4, Wolf Creek. Perhaps that is the part of Russell County where they always lived.

**Other marriages:**

1783	Elizabeth BRONSON-2137	NRIN: 762
17 Aug 1798	Nancy PHELPS-1457	NRIN: 359

**WIFE - Nancy HEREFORD-1461**

**BIRTH:**

Various census records (see below)

Second marriage record of son James Gabriel shows his mother born Russell Co.

**MARRIAGE:**

Ethelyn Coffey states: "Marriages by Bork lists bride's name as Nancy Hansford (Hereford?) but close scrutiny of the old marriage record, as recorded in the courthouse, by use of a magnifying glass clearly lists the name as Hereford."

**CENSUS:**

1850--Russell Co, KY [HH408]--In HH headed by Andrew Coffey; she is shown as Nancy, 53, b KY

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy HEREFORD-1461

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1895

1860--Russell Co, KY [HH711]--In HH headed by Martin Coffey; she is shown as Nancy, 65, f, b KY.

1870--Russell Co, KY [Pct 4/HH122]--In HH headed by John S. Brown (prob her grandson). She is shown as Nancy Coffey, 76, f, w, b KY, cannot read or write

[NOTE: HH heads: #122: John S. Brown (son George & Frances Brown)

#123: George Brown (husband of Frances Coffey)

#124: Andrew Coffey (son of Martin & Nancy)

CHILD 1 - James Gabriel COFFEY-1462

**BIRTH:**

FGS f/Ethelyn Coffey

**MARRIAGE:**

To Martha (Patsy) Tucker: Marriages of Wayne County, KY (1801-1860 shows bond dated 7/22/1836 and married 7/31/1836 at house of Martin Coffey.

To Clarinda Estes: Lincoln County Book 13, p. 290

**DEATH:**

FGS f/Ethelyn Coffey

**CENSUS:**

1850--Russell Co, KY--Second Dist; HH303/303--He heads HH, shown as James Coffey, 31, m, farmer, \$200, b KY, cannot read or write. Other HH members (all w/surname Coffey) are Patsey (31,f), William M. (12,m), Frances M. (9,m) Moses (7,m), George A. E. (5,m), Albert (3,m), Henry J (3/12,m).

1860--Lincoln Co, KY(Houstonville)

1870--Lincoln Co, KY [p. 133;HH877/877]--He heads HH and is shown is Jas Coffy, 41, m, Farmer, \$2000, \$1100, b KY, cannot r/w. Other HH members (all b KY): Martha (41), Wm M (21), Moses (17), Geo A (15), Albert G (12), Henry ? (10), Robert (7), Milly (5), Nancy (3), Elizabeth Bell (1)

1880---Lincoln Co, KY [Pct No. 1; ED66; p. 13; HH102/111]--He heads HH and is shown as James Coffey, W, M, 61, married, Farmer, cannot r/w, he & parents b KY. Other HH members (all b KY, all parents b KY): Clarinda (54, wife), Robert (27, son). [Note: Another Coffey family is at HH 116/128; difficult to read; may be George, son of James. Another Coffey family at HH 119/131 appears to be that of son Albert]

**RELATIONSHIPS:**

(1) Ethelyn Coffey's husband is a descendant of James' son Moses. I have FGS on James that she sent me.

(2) In Pierce book on Meadows family re person C-7, she quotes letter f/Jacob Meadows to his brother Henry Meadows, husband of Polly Coffey Meadows. He spoke of "Sister Polly" and of her brothers Joel and James Coffey. Polly's family all well except her father who was old and ill. Letter was dated 7/11/1847 f/Russel Co, KY. Since Martin possibly had two sons named "James" I am not sure which one Jacob was referring to, but probably the younger one, who did live in Russell County at the time. [I.E., I think the reference WAS to this James Coffey.]

**Other marriages:**

Abt 8 Jan 1879 Clarinda ESTES-2126

MRIN: 757

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy HERRFORD-1461

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1895

CHILD 2 - Frances COFFEY-2133

**BIRTH:**

(1) Various census records (see below)

**MARRIAGE:**

**DEATH:**

She is listed in 1870 census, but 10/16/1870 George W. Brown married Charlotte Crisp in Russell Co at home of Andrew Coffey. [F/Ethelyn Coffey]

**CENSUS:**

1860--Russell Co, KY [Russell Dist; HH709]--She is in HH headed by George W. W. Brown (36). She is shown as Frances Brown (40, F, cannot read/write  
1870--Russell Co, KY [Pct 4/HH123]--She is in HH headed by George Brown, 46. She is shown as Frances Brown, 52, f, w, keeping house

**CHILDREN:** [F/Ethelyn Coffey]

M-John S. Brown b abt 1845, m 12/3/1863 Russell Co  
F-Nancy E. E. Brown, b abt 1850  
M-Marcey Brown, b abt 6/1855, d 12/17/1857 Russell Co

CHILD 3 - Golson Wilson COFFEY-2131

**BIRTH:**

**MARRIAGE:** I suspect he married about 1844.

**CENSUS:**

1850--Russell Co, KY--Second Dist; #409/409--He heads HH next to that of brother Andrew. He is shown as Wilson Coffy, 28, m, farmer, b KY, cannot read or write. Other HH members (all surname Coffy & b KY): Rebecca Ann Coffy (24, f), William P (5, m), Reuben G. (3, f), John C (22, m, farmer, \$100)  
1860--Russell Co, KY--[Dist of Russell; HH#710]--He heads HH between those of his sister Frances and his father; he is shown as G. W. Coffey, 39, m, Farmer, \$600, \$300, b Ky. Other HH members: Rebecca Ann (34); Reuben (13); Sarah (9), Martin (5), Nancy (4), James (2), Laura B (2/12)  
1880--Holt Co, MO [Lewis Tp; ED30, Sht41, HH305/316] He heads 4 person HH. He is shown as Golson W. Coffey, W, M, 59, married, Farmer, cannot r/w, b KY, father b NC, mother b KY. Other HH members are Rebecca A. (55, wife), Nancy Williams (23, daughter), Rose Williams (1, granddaughter). NOTE 1: in this enumeration district are following HHs headed by Golson Wilson's children:  
HH229/240--Martin Coffey  
HH303/314--William Coffey [Note that these HHs found w/o  
HH304/315--James R. Coffey real searching; other children may  
HH306/317--Reuben G. Coffey. also be in the area.]

NOTE 2: There are several Wilson families in this FWP around the Coffey families.

[NOTE: I have not been able to locate this family in 1900 census.]

**LIFE**

Per Ethelyn f/Gloria & Jim Roach of El Reno, OK [Jim great grandson of Golson Wilson]: He was b Janestown, Russell Co, KY. Was called Willis and sometimes Will in OK. Their children were b in KY with exception of one daughter, Martha

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy HEREFORD-1461

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1895

Ellen who was b in IL 9/1862. So we know the family left KY sometime after 1860 census. In 1891 Golson Wilson Coffey, son Martin & grandson William made run into Pottawatomie County, and Martin filed west of Wanette, Sec 17, TWP G.N. R 2 E Pottawatomie County. Martin was on the NE Qtr; William on NW Qtr and Golson Wilson filed due west on Sec 18 SW/4, all on 10/6/1891. Golson Wilson was 69 then; land was poor and rocky in this section. Golson's wife Rebecca died in 1893 and Martin's wife Mary Jane had died about 1891. The two men moved into Wanette, possibly to take care of Martin's children and possibly because Martin wanted to get his father off the homestead before the worst of winter and into town. Martin sold his 80 acres to Daniel F. Allenbaugh in 12/1893 and reserved one acre called "Coffey Cemetery" to be set out when Allenbaugh's claim became finalized. Golson Wilson gave up his land 11/16/1893 and William cancelled in 3/1894. HE WAS A METHODIST CIRCUIT RIDING PREACHER. He lived KY, IL, MO, KS, TX, OK.

**CHILDREN [f/Ethelyn Coffey]**

M-William F., b abt 1845 KY, m 1/2/1860 Ann Elizabeth Brown Russell Co, KY, d abt 1888 Holt, MO? [Son says buried White Cloud, KS on Mo border]  
M-Ruben G, b abt 1847, b Rebecca (Cherokee Ind), d abt 1925, Stratford, OK  
F-Sarah, b 8/1850, m 1868 George Judkins, d aft 1910 in perhaps McClain Co, OK  
F-Martha-b 6/1853, d 11/1857 Russell Co of burns  
M-Martin (Martha's twin)-b 6/1853, m abt 1873 Mary Jane Bailey (Cherokee Ind), d 12/25/1918 McComb, OK  
F-Nancy J.F., b 4/18/1856, m 2/4/1876 Russell Co John Williams  
M-James R., b 3/30/1858, m abt 1876 Martha in MO, d aft 1910 in perhaps McClain Co OK  
F-Laura B b 3or4/1860, m abt 1883/4 KS to John F. Gilbreath, lived Pottawatomie Co, OK in 1900  
F-Marthy Ellen, b 9/1862 IL, m abt 1880 MO to Abner Siggerson, d 1/25/1906, buried Coffey Cen

**OTHER:**

In 1870 census of Russell Co, KY--There are many families with surname Wilson in Pct 4, where Golson Wilson's brother Andrew and sister Frances live.

**TO DO:**

See if Methodist church records available; obit?

**CHILD 4 - Andrew COFFEY-2136**

**BIRTH:**

Census record (see below)

**MARRIAGE:**

I suspect he married about 1844; he had a five year old child in 1850  
Ethelyn says wife's surname may be Brown. I would guess it is Brown.

**DEATH:**

Will proven 1884

**CENSUS:**

1850--Russell County, KY; Second Dist; HH408/408--He heads HH consisting of him, Sarah (23), John (5), James (9/12), Martain (82); Nancy (53). He is

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy HEREFORD-1461

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth 1895

shown as Andrew Coffey, 26, M, Farmer, \$60, b KY, cannot read or write.  
1860--Russell Co, KY [Dist of Russell; HH715]--He heads HH715. He is shown as Andrew Coffey, 36, m, Farmer, \$350, \$350, b KY, cannot read/write. Other HH members (all b KY & surname Coffey): Sarah (32), John W. (15), James W. (11), Golson W. (9), Lucinda (7), Franklin (5), Walton (3), Elizabeth A (1).  
1870--Russell Co, KY [Pct 4; HH124]--He heads HH next to that of sister Frances. He is shown as Andrew Coffey, 47, b KY. Other HH members are Sarah (44), Golston W. (14), Frances (15), Walton H (?) (13), Elizabeth (12), Nancy (8), Thomas (5)  
1880--Russell Co, KY [Pct No.1/ED98/HH151]--He heads 6 person HH. He is shown as Andrew Coffey, W, M, 55, married, ?Farmer, cannot r/w, b KY, father b Virginia, mother b KY. Other HH members with Coffey surname (all b KY): Sarah A. (53, wife), Frances A (24, daughter), Thomas H (15,son), Bryan (9, son). Final HH member: ?Ricston, Lucy, 73, b KY

Russell County birth record for Wanton M. Coffey, 1/29/1857, father Andrew Coffey, mother Sarah M. Brown. Ethelyn also indicates wife's name may be Brown.

CHILD 5 - John C. COFFEY-2129

BIRTH:

Various census records

MARRIAGE: (Per Ethelyn) Casey County, KY marriage records

CENSUS:

1850--Russell Co, KY [Second Dist;HH409/409]--He is last person listed in HH headed by brother Wilson and next door to brother Andrew where parents live. He is shown as John C. Coffy, 22, M, Farmer, \$100, b KY, can read & write.

CHILDREN [f/Ethelyn Coffey]

- M-Martin A., b abt 1851, Lincoln Co, KY
- M-David F., b abt 1853, m 9/21/1871 Russell Co to Cleopatra Popplewell
- M-James W. b abt 1855
- M-William Jefferson, b abt 1855
- F-Minerva, b abt 1859; m Wolff Balley
- F-Sophonia, b abt 1862 IL
- F-Rosa, b abt 1869 IL
- M-Charlie, b abt 1873 IL

HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105

BORN: 15 Sep 1762/1766 PLACE: ...,VA  
 DIED: 27 Nov 1867 PLACE: ...,KY  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 MARR: 17 Aug 1798 PLACE: ,,Madison Co,KY has other marriages  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

WIFE Nancy PHELPS-1457

BORN: PLACE: ...,VA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Bef 1817 PLACE: prob,,,KY  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Mary "Polly" Ann COFFEY-934  
 --- BORN: 16 Sep 1799 PLACE: ...,KY  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 24 Aug 1881 PLACE: ,,Warren Co,IL  
 BUR.: PLACE: Meridian Cen,,Warren Co,IL  
 SPOUSE: Henry MEADOWS-933 MRIN: 280  
 MARR: 26 Mar 1818 PLACE: ,,Wayne Co,KY

2. NAME: William Martin COFFEY-1460  
 --- BORN: Abt 1804 PLACE: ...,KY  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Aft 28 Aug 1850 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Nancy CURDIFF-2122 MRIN: 751  
 MARR: Abt 7 Dec 1825 PLACE: ,,Wayne Co,KY

3. NAME: Elizabeth COFFEY-1458  
 --- BORN: Abt 1805/1810 PLACE: prob,,,KY  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Bef 1850 PLACE: prob,,,IL  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Elisha MITCHELL-1472 MRIN: 530  
 MARR: Abt 31 Jan 1826 PLACE: ,,Wayne Co,KY

4. NAME: Nancy Ellen COFFEY-986  
 --- BORN: 1813 PLACE: ...,KY  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: 14 Dec 1888 PLACE: Meridian Cen,Christian Ch,Warren Co,IL  
 SPOUSE: William Perry MEADOWS-969 MRIN: 297  
 MARR: 15 Mar 1831 PLACE: ,,Barren Co,KY

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105

Yr of Birth 1762

WIFE Nancy PHELPS-1457

Yr of Birth

CHILDREN (continued)

5. NAME: Artemasiah Coonis COFFEY-2134

---- BORN: Abt 1816/1817 PLACE: ,,Wayne Co,KY

P CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: Aft 1870 PLACE:

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE: William KELSEY-2125

NRIN: 756

MARR: 10 Sep 1835 PLACE: ,,Wayne Co,KY



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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy PHELPS-1457

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth

HUSBAND - Martin COFFEY-1105

**BIRTH:**

- (1) Kaye Stanley gives exact birth date as 9/15/1766
- (2) Ethelyn Coffey states family records and Bible records of two grandsons who had not been in contact with one another both show date as 9/15/1762.
- (3) Place:
  - (a) Following records show him b NC: his 1850 census record; second marriage record of son James Gabriel; 1880 census record of son Golson Wilson.
  - (b) Following records show him b VA: his 1860 census record; 1880 census records of son Andrew, dau Polly Meadows
  - (c) In bio sketch of his greatgrandson, John Henry Johnson (son of Sarah Meadows, daughter of Polly Coffee), found in IL county history: "The mother of our subject . . . was a lineal descendant in the maternal line of Martin Coffee, who came from England to America and died in Kentucky at the age of one hundred and one years. A large estate in England was left by a member of this family but the record is not sufficiently complete to prove the claims of our subject's family upon it."]
  - (d) Following census records show him b KY: 1880 census record of son James Gabriel.
- (4) I am inclined to think that he was born either in England or VA, that he went from VA to NC, and then to KY. It is his younger children who refer to him as born NC or KY.

**MARRIAGES:**

- (1) To Elizabeth Bronson--See notes on Elizabeth Bronson.
- (2) To Nancy Phelps--See notes on Nancy Phelps
- (3) To Nancy Heriford--See notes on Nancy Heriford
- (4) Note that Jean Deavers says he had an 1788 marriage to Nancy Edwards. If so, this likely to have been 2nd marriage.

**DEATH:**

- (1) Kaye Stanley gives exact death date as 11/27/1867.

**CENSUS:**

1820--Wayne Co, KY [f/Ethelyn]

males under 10: 2 [Surname: James G (2), one other]  
 males 16-26: 2 [Surname: Martin, Jr (~16), Joel (~20/23)]  
 males 26-45: 1 [Surname: Martin, really ~54/58]  
 females 10-16: 2 [Surname: Elizabeth (~10/16) & one other]  
 females 16-26: 1 [Surname: wife Nancy]  
 females under 10: 3 [Surname: Nancy (~7), Artemasiah (~3), Francis (~1)]

1830--Russell Co, KY [f/Ethelyn]

males under 5: 2 [Surname: John C (2) & one other]  
 males 5-10: 2 [Surname: Andrew (6) & Gholson Wilson (8)]  
 males 10-15: 1 [Surname: James, (12)]  
 males 60+: 1 [Surname: Martin]  
 females 10-15: 2 [Surname: Artemasiah (~13/14) & Francis (~11/12)]  
 females 30-40: 1 [Surname: wife Nancy]

1840--Russell Co, KY [f/Ethelyn]

males 10-15: 1 [Surname: John (12)]  
 males 15-20: 2 [Surname: Andrew (16) & Gholson Wilson (18)]

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy PHELPS-1457

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth

males 60-70: 1 [Surname: Martin]  
females 15-20: 1 [Surname: Francis (~21/22)]  
females 40-50: 1 [Surname: wife Nancy]

1850 census, Russell Co, KY--He is in HH headed by Andrew Coffey. He is shown as Martain, 82, m, farmer, b NC. Listed just after Martin in HH is Nancy. He CAN read and write according to census. [Second Dist; HH408/408]  
1860 census, Russell Co, KY--Martin Coffey heads HH711/711. He is 94, M, farmer, born VA. Only other HH member is Nancy Coffey, 65, F, born KY  
Note: HH710--his son Golson Wilson; HH709--his daughter Frances; HH708--William Coffey (probably grandson)

LIFE:

Mostly F/Ethelyn Coffey

8/17/1798--Madison Co, KY Marriage records--Martin Coffey married to Nancy Phelps. "Bond" Shad Phelps.

1799--Green County, KY lists Martin Coffe, 1 white male over 21.

1800--Green County, KY tax list shows a Martin Coffy

1803--Adair County, KY. Tax list: Martin Coffey, 1 white male over 21

1804--Adair County, KY. Tax list: Mortain Coffey 1 white male over 21

Mar. 4, 1805--Adair County, KY Court Orders 1802-1808, Vol. 1--Martin Coffey made proof for 319 acres on forks of the Roaring Lilly. (p. 145)

1805--Adair County, KY. Tax list: Martin Coffey 1 white male over 21 plus 319 acres.

1807--Adair County, KY Tax list: martin Coffey 1 white male over 21.

1809--Parents consent by oath of Martin Coffey to 2/26/1809 marriage, Wayne County, KY of William Ward & Polly Coffey.

1810--[Not in 1810 census, but probably in Wayne County] Jeff Simmons suggests that one of the entries for "Nathan" in 1810 might be for Martin.

1836--Wayne Co marriage records show James G. Coffey married at home of Martin Coffey.

Martin's family is found in 1870 census in Pct 4, Wolf Creek. Perhaps that is the part of Russell County where they always lived.

Other marriages:

1783	Elizabeth BRONSON-2137	NRIN: 762
1 Dec 1817	Nancy HEREFORD-1461	NRIN: 524

WIFE - Nancy PHELPS-1457

BIRTH:

1880 census record on Polly Coffey Meadows shows her mother b NY. However, this is almost certainly in error; same census (same twp & county) for Polly's sister Nancy Coffey Meadows indicates Nancy's mother b. Vir.

MARRIAGE:

Madison County, KY Marriage records [f/Ethelyn]

DEATH:

(1) Assume she died before Martin's next marriage in Dec 1817 to Nancy Heriford

OTHER:

Ethelyn quotes noncupative will of John Phelps, Sr., proved 8/7/1798 in Madison

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy PHELPS-1457

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth

Co (Will BK A, p178), listing a daughter Nancy Phelps and a son Shadrach. She notes that the bondsman for the marriage of Martin Coffey to Nancy Phelps was Shad Phelps and that a Shadrack Phelps, age 60-70 in Russell County, KY, 1840 census, lived near Martin Coffey family. The marriage of Nancy & Martin would have taken place just a few days following the probaton of her father's will.

-----  
KY Wills to 1851 lists following wills for this surname

, Edwin--Bullitt, 064, D, 1848  
, John---Madison, 178, A, 1798  
, John M-Christian, 317, L, 1841  
, Larkin-Pulaski, 1186, 3, 1850  
, Sally--Madison, 489, D, 1828  
, Thomas-Bullitt, 279, D, 1850  
, Wm-----Knox, 086, A, 1821

Phelps, Josiah-Madison, 088, F, 1835

Of special interest is the one for Sally in 1828--perhaps she was Nancy's sister and John's daughter. NEED TO LOOK AT THIS WILL!

CHILD 1 - Mary "Polly" Ann COFFEY-934

**BIRTH:**

Various census records (see below)  
Tombstone gives date of birth

**MARRIAGE:**

Marriage record: Wayne County, KY "Green Book, pp 118-120--names Henry & Polly & is consent of Henry's father, dated 3/21/1818.

**DEATH & BURIAL:**

Tombstone: shows her buried with husband. Inscription:  
Meadows, Henry May 28, 1787-Jan. 13, 1851  
Mary Coffee Sept. 16, 1799 - Aug. 24, 1881 wife of Henry Meadows

**CENSUS:**

1850 census, Warren Co, IL--She is shown in hh of Henry Meadows as Mary, 50, F, born Kentucky  
1860 census, Warren Co, IL [Berwick Twp]--A Mary Meadows, 61, f, is shown as the head of hh #2936/2949. Other hh members are Erastus Meadows (18, m), Thomas Meadows (14, m), and Alice Mills (8, f). Mary's real estate is valued at \$4000, personal estate at \$337; b KY  
1870 census, Warren Co, IL [Berwick Twp]--She is the head of hh #117/116. She is listed as 73, F, W, keeping house, real estate valued \$7600, born KY. Other hh members are Thomas (24), Mary J (23), Ira (2) and Austin (3 mos)  
1880 census, Warren Co, IL [Berwick Twp; ED284, p.1, HH9/10]--She is only member of HH; she is shown as Polly Meadows, W, F, 81, widowed, keeping house b KY, father b Virginia, mother b NY.  
1900 census, Dallas Co, IA--James Meadows mother born KY

**RELATIONSHIPS/OTHER**

Several details of her life in given in 1888 sketch of her son Thomas (Port.. & Biographical Album of Warren Co...)--gives her dob as 9/6/1799 & marriage date as 3/26/1818

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy PHELPS-1457

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth

Named as Polly Ann Coffee/mother on James Meadows 1911 death certificate  
Meadows Family Descendants by Pierce contains considerable info on this family  
Tombstone (see above)

CHILD 2 - William Martin COFFEY-1460

**BIRTH:**

Census record (see below)

**MARRIAGE:**

Vol. 1 of Bork's Wayne County, Kentucky Marriages & Vital Records 1801-1860  
shows: "James Coffey and Patsy Tucker. Bondsman, Martin Coffey and Moses  
Tucker. Bond dated 22 July 1836, married 31 July 1836 by Isaac Powell.  
Married at the house of Martin Coffey."

**CENSUS:**

1850--Russell Co, KY--Second Dist; HH204/204--He heads HH. Shown as Martain  
Coffey, 46, M, Farmer, \$500, b KY. Other HH members are Darius Coffey (30,m)  
Benjamin Coffey (18,m), Lucy A. Coffey (17,f), John ? Coffey (15,m), Sarah ?  
Coffey (13,f), Christian Coffey (12,m), Mary I Coffey (10,f), Martha Coffey  
(5,f), Mandy O. Coffey (3,f), James A. Coffey (7/12,m).

[Note 1: I am not positive this is the son of old Martin Coffey. There is a  
death registration for a Martin Coffey who died in Russell County in June 1855,  
age 54 years, son of Hetty & Joel Coffey. In this census just 6 HHs away from  
the above Martin is a HH headed by 74 year old Hester Coffey. Possibly the  
above martin is the one who died 1855.]

[Note 2: If this is Martin, Jr., there is a possibility that the next HH,  
headed by Allen Coffey (38) is also a son of old Martin. Allen has a 5 year  
old male named Martain; there is also an 18 year old female named Hester.]

[Note 3: Best thing to do is to try to locate the above Martin Coffey family  
in the 1870 census.]

[Note 4: There is a death record in Russell County 11/26/1856 for Lucinda  
Riggins, 21, parents Martin & Darens(?) Coffey. This is probably for the above  
Lucy. Then the above Darius (30,m) was actually the wife. Perhaps second  
wife? Note 5 year gap between ages of Mary (10) and Martha (5).]

**RELATIONSHIPS:**

In 1986 letter to Marvin Coffey Jean Deavers names this individual as a  
child of Martin Coffey & Elizabeth Bronson.

CHILD 3 - Elizabeth COFFEY-1458

**BIRTH:**

(1) See marriage info below. If she was at least 16 but less than 21, then  
she was born 1805-1810.

**MARRIAGE:**

(1) Wayne County Marriage Records 1801-1806 by Bork, Vol. 2 states "Bond and  
Minister return missing, only the following notes were found: '31 January 1826  
- Wain Conty - this is to sartify that my dauter is not of ag and I am willin  
for her to hav Elijah Mitchell given under my hand by Martin Coffey and Nancy  
Coffey - witness, Joel Coffey. (2) "Warren County, Ky. to the clarke of Wayne  
County Kentuck sir is to cerity that my sone is not of age but I am willin for  
him to merry to Elizabeth Coffee 20 January 1826 . . . ."

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HUSBAND Martin COFFEY-1105  
WIFE Nancy PHELPS-1457

Yr of Birth 1762  
Yr of Birth

**DEATH:**

(1) In the 1850 census in Macoupin County, IL, HH5/5 contains the following members: Elisha Mitchell, 43, m, Farmer, \$1240, KY

Mary Mitchell 26, f, Eng

Sarah Mitchell 18, f, KY

Joseph Mitchell 12, m, Ills, att school w/i yr

Winfrey Mitchell 10, m, Ills, att school w/i yr

Benjamin Mitchell 8, m, Ills, att school w/i yr

Elizabeth Mitchell 4, f, Ills

Robert Mitchell 1, m, Ills

I suspect this Elisha Mitchell was the husband of Elizabeth Coffey and she had died. Note that he was b KY, as was the first child. In addition one of the children was named Winfrey, and Winfrey was a family fairly common in Russell County, KY. Also, other children of Martin Coffey had gone to Illinois.

**CENSUS:**

1830--Warren Co, KY--Next to HH of Martin Coffey

**CHILD 4 - Nancy Ellen COFFEY-986**

**BIRTH:** Various census records (see below); tombstone inscription shows age at death.

**DEATH:** Tombstone inscription shows date.

**BURIAL:**

Tombstone Inscription shows her buried with husband and following:

Nancy died Dec. 14, 1888 age 75 y wife of Wm

**RELATIONSHIPS:**

Pierce book--quotes letter dated 9/30/1848, postmarked 10/3/1848, written from Jamestown, Russel Co, KY by Andrew Meadows to his brother Henry. He mentioned sisters Polly and Nancy (Coffey), wives of brother Henry & William, spoke of their father being ill.

**CENSUS:**

1850 census--In HH of her husband [HH356/356, Warren County, IL]; she is shown as Nancy, 38, F, born KY, cannot read & write. HH also includes following children, all b IL: Margaret, 17; Nancy E., 15, Martha, 13; Jacob, 9; Elijah, 7; William, 5; George, 3; Ann, 1

1880--Warren Co, IL; Berwick Twp; ED284/p.4/HH31/32--She is last person listed in HH headed by her son George Meadows (28). She is shown as Nancy, w, f, 66, mother, widowed, b KY, father born NC, mother born Vir

**TO DO:**

(1) Get obituary.

(2) Get census records: 1860, 1870

(3) Get her children's marriage records; look for any bios in IL histories.

**CHILD 5 - Artemasiab Coonis COFFEY-2134**

**BIRTH:**

(1) Various census records (see below)

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-----  
**HUSBAND** Martin COFFEY-1105 Yr of Birth 1762  
**WIFE** Nancy PHELPS-1457 Yr of Birth  
 -----

(2) Marriage record of son John H. says his parents b Wayne Co.

**MARRIAGE:**

Bork's Wayne County, KY Marriages & Vital Records, Vol. 2, shows marriage William Kelsey and Artemasiah Coonis Coofey; Surety, Martin Coffey.

**CENSUS:**

1850--Wayne Co, KY [Div. No.1;#352/352]--She is in HH headed by William Kelsey (40,M,farmer,\$200,b FN). The next person listed is N.M. [very difficult to read; could be many combinations, but in wife position] (34,f,b KY).

Remaining HH members are all children b KY: ? ? ? (14,f), Nancy J (12,f), Elizabeth (9,f), Minerva (7,f), Mary A. (5,f), Martin A. (5,m), John H. (1,m)

Per Ethelyn

1870--Russell Co, KY #199

**CHILDREN:** [From Ethelyn]

M-J.S.P. Kelsey, b abt 1836

F-Nancy Kelsey b abt 1838

F-Elizabeth b abt 1841

F Minerva J. Kelsey b abt 1843

F-Mary A. Kelsey b abt 1845, m J.C. Holder 3/28/1878 Russell Co

M-Martin A. Kelsey b abt 1847, m Margaret Coffey 2/2/1868 Russell Co

M-John H. Kelsey b abt 1849, m Polly Flagan 4/28/1878 Russell Co

M-George S. Kelsey b abt 1854  
 -----

02-Mar-92

Code	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Telephone
1	Coffey	Ethelyn E.	107 Northridge Dr	Mt. Sterling	KY	40353 (606) 498-0772
5	Coffey	Harding C.	14227 Bob White Dr.	San Antonio	TX	78717-1238 (512) 653-8224
1	Coffey	Marvin D.	1018 Clay St	Asland	OR	97520 (503) 488-1087
2	Coffey	Robert D.	8001 E. Broadway, #207	Mesa	AZ	85208
2	Coffey	Spencer	8220 S. Rusell Rd	Oak Grove	MO	64075
5	Coffey Cousins C	c/o Bonnie Culley	1416 Green Berry Rd	Jefferson City	MO	65101 (314) 635-9057
1	Deavers	Jean	1707 Brentmoor Ln	Louisville	KY	40223 (502) 426-5638
5	Jorden	Calley	c/o Katherine Coffee	Kalama	WA	98625
2	KY Historical Soc	Old State Capitol	P. O.Box H	Frankfort	KY	40602 (502) 564-3016
1	Konkle	Anne	115 W. Carter Ave	Clarksville	IN	47129 (812) 282-3645
1	Kraft	John B.	Route 1, Box 150	Chidester	AR	
2	Morlock	Kathi Tucker	717 Harrison Ave	Astoria	OR	97103 (503) 325-8107
2	Petronella	Pat	387 Anna Dr	Riviera	AZ	86442
1	Simmons	Jeffrey W.	1255 N. Seminary	Galesburg	IL	61401 (309) 343-9127
5	Smith	Bernice	136 N. 8th Ave.	Canton	IL	61520 (309) 647-6433
2	Smith	Edith (Mrs. James)	2600 S. Cherokee Dr.	Owensboro	KY	42301 (502) 683-2950
1	Stanley	Kaye	2901 N.Athenian	Wichita	KS	67204
1	Studer	Ruth	Route 1, Box 215	Lake Village	IN	46349
2	Wade	Daraleen	4305 Toni Ave, N.	Salem	OR	97303 (503) 390-1448
1	Walker	Rebecca (Walker)	P. O. Box 607	Cathlamet	WA	98612
2	Welch	Dr. June	5535 Willow Ln	Dallas	TX	(214) 233-6610
1	Wills	Rachel Dunton	P. O.Box 1345	West Point	VA	23181

Code

1=response(s) to project letter

2=various other, e.g., Coffey interest but not Martin

3=no response

4=phone call

5=other

P. O. Box 637  
Chugiak, AK 99567  
March 2, 1992  
(907) 688-4547

Dear cousins and friends,

The cover sheet to this letter lists the individuals to whom this letter is being mailed. I think I've been in contact with all but about two or three of you. In all cases, our common interest is the Coffey family; in almost every case, our common interest is the elusive Martin Coffey, who died in 1867 in Russell County, Kentucky.

Let me begin by thanking all of you for your patience with me. I'm afraid it took me quite a lot longer than I'd supposed to put together all the information you sent me and combine it with the information I already had. Special thanks go to Ethelyn Coffey (who sent a wealth of beautifully organized information), Jeff Simmons (who is in contact with the son of the individual who had the Meadows letters that Pearce referred to in her book [see group sheets]), and to Jean Deavers (who has been very kind to share information that no one else seems to have).

To cut down on my costs, I've attempted to get all the information onto family group sheets. In addition to the family group sheets I prepared on Martin Coffey and his wives, I'm including a couple of items I thought might be of particular interest to you.

The enclosed family group sheets need to be taken with several grains of salt. I look at them as possibilities rather than the gospel. I'd appreciate comments from all of you on the information in the sheets and certainly hope you'll keep me in mind as you continue your search for additional information on Martin.

I will be in Salt Lake City the week of March 8-15 to do research at the Mormon library. If you have any terrific thoughts you'd like to pass on to me immediately and want to contact me while I'm in Salt Lake, I'm staying at the Howard Johnson right by the library. The room is registered in the name of my friend, Barbara Meier.

As you can see, I've begun a list of possible avenues to pursue in search of more information on Martin. I'd love to share these projects with anyone who's willing. If you think there are other avenues to pursue, I hope you'll let me know. Some things are pretty difficult to do from Alaska, but on the whole I can't complain about the facilities available to me. We have a wonderful Family History Center in Anchorage, a decent public library that subscribes to the expanding microfiche collection of county histories and other genealogical information, and--best of all--a new regional branch of the National Archives. So there may be



things I can do from our National Archives branch that are easier for me to do than for any of you.

One final favor: when you write, would you send your telephone number if you have one and I don't have it listed on the cover sheet. Let's all stay in touch and keep working to find Martin.

Sincerely,



Judith McClung White

## JUDY'S MUSINGS/AVENUES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

1. We need to collect ALL the census records on Martin's children, especially those of 1880 and 1900 for the children who lived that long. Those census records have LOTS of information. Does anyone have census records/references for the ones missing from the family group sheets.
2. We need to get copies of the information linking Martin Coffey to Elizabeth Bronson. [Jean, can you help on this?]
3. Perhaps we should be looking in Virginia, especially Amherst & Albemarle Counties, for information about Martin as a young man.
4. Does anyone have an obituary for Martin? What newspapers were in Russell and Wayne Counties (or surrounding area) in 1867? What library in Kentucky is coordinating the National Endowment for the Humanities newspaper project (to collect all the newspapers ever published in the state)? Has anyone ever searched for an obituary on him? Does anyone have obits for any of the children?
5. Martin's grandchildren were the right age to be included in the county histories written 1880-1910. We should make a concerted effort to prepare family group sheets on all of Martin's children so as to identify his grandchildren and then check the county histories for the possibility that his biographical sketches of his grandchildren might be listed.
6. Our family history center has the Indiana Biographical Index. I will try to locate all the Indiana Coffey biographies indexed.
7. Has anyone had any experience with Kentucky land records? Do they have genealogical information? Did Martin patent any land?
8. At the Clayton Library in Houston, I found in a Wilkes County, NC, Genealogical Society publication extracts of a Church of Christ congregation in the very late 1700s. Perhaps half the references were to Coffey members. One of Martin's sons became a Methodist minister. I have a vague recollection that Martin's family may also have had Baptist connections. His daughter Polly married into the Meadows family, which has extremely strong Christian Church connections. Perhaps there is Russell or Wayne County, KY religious information. Has anyone checked this out?
9. Does anyone have old maps of Wayne/Russell County? Is there a Wolf Creek (see 1870 census record)?
10. To Jean Deavers: You mentioned that your parents visited the old farm. Was this a reference to Martin's farm? Do you know where the farm is?
11. While not a huge variation, is it possible the Bible records of Martin's birth were recorded long after his birth (and perhaps even sometime after his death) and he was not 105 at time of death

and actually was only about 101? This would be more consistent with later census records and with bio sketch of great grandson ~~Thomas~~ Thomas. It might also explain why there's no Revolutionary War record for him. There are several Coffeys f/NC who later went to KY who did serve in the Revolutionary War, especially about 1780 against the Cherokees. If Martin was born 1762, he'd have been 18-just the right age; but if he wasn't born until 1766, he'd still have been a tad young to be out fighting.

12. If the age part of the Thomas sketch is right, is it possible the parts about Martin's having been born in England and the fortune also have some basis? Has anyone heard anything about the fortune hunt? Were there any letters or other documents on the subject?

13. There are lots of missing birth, marriage, and death dates and places on the family group sheets. HELP!

14. What kind of person was Martin? Has anyone heard any stories? Isn't it unusual that he could read and write, but many of his children couldn't?

15. Jean Deavers sent me info showing descendants of Martin's who served in the Civil War in Company "K", 19th KY Volunteer Infantry. Was this a Union or Confederate Company? Does anyone have any pension or other military records of Martin's children or grandchildren? Does anyone have any Civil War stories? Was the family totally committed to one side or the other? Were there splits in the family over the War?

16. Are there descendants of Martin's who still live in Russell County or Wayne County? Has anyone been in contact with them? Is there a Russell County Genealogical Society? Would it be worthwhile to put an ad in the local newspaper in Russell County asking descendants of Martin Coffey to contact someone?