

COFFEY COUSINS⁵ CLEARINGHOUSE



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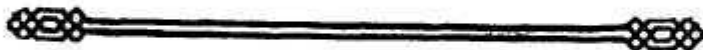
COFFEY COUSINS' CLEARINGHOUSE
1416 Green Berry Road
Jefferson City, MO. 65101

CCC is a newsletter originated in 1981 to collect and disseminate information about the COFFEE/COFFEY families of North America. It is issued in MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER. Back issues are available; \$1.00 each (Nos. 1-21); \$2.00 each (Nos. 22-35). Subscription rate for calendar year 1990 is \$8.00 in U.S., Canada, Mexico. \$10.00 Overseas.

YOUR PAST AND PRESENT FAMILY INFORMATION IS WELCOME

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Here are some of the questions and answers overheard at the Bureau of **Naturalization**:

"Where is Washington?"

"He's dead."

"I mean the Capital of the **United States**."

"Oh, they loaned it **all** to Europe."

"Do you promise to support the **Constitution**?"

"Me? How can I? I've a wife and six **children** to support."

Dear Cousins,



How **did** September get here so soon? I have started **indexing** the Coffey **Cousins'** Clearinghouse as I promised at the convention. Len had 1 through 16 **completed**. I've done 17, 18 and **working** on 19 but **it's** slow going. Should we make a separate book of the Index? **We'll** talk **about it** at the next **convention**.

Did any of you have problems **with** your June **issue**? **Did** you get **it** and was **it** in decent **condition**? I got a couple back **all** torn up and a **couple** people wrote that they **only** got pieces. If you're **issue** was in bad shape let me know and I'll replace them. I'm working **with** the post office to correct **this**. Their new machinery cancels from the **opposite** edge.

Our **son-in-law** Michael Wasson, 38, passed away the 23 of August leaving our daughter Connie **with** two small children, Michelle and **Kris**. **Jim** and I have been very busy trying to help them. They **live** in Springfield, MO.

Love, your cousin,
Bonnie

WELCOME **OUR** NEW COUSINS

AND THEIR ANCESTORS

Jerry Coffee 1621 Sylvan Dr., Plano, TX 75074

Kenneth D. Harrison 523 N. **Main** St., Enterprise, AL 36330

Mabel Buckley 4436 E. Walatowa St., Phoenix, AZ 85044-1621

Frances Parkinson 245 Highway 28 W., **Hazlehurst**, MS 39083

Anna S. **Cassell** 192 Tucker Rd., Spartanburg, SC 29301

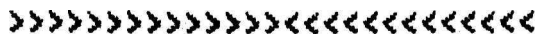
Joseph Coffee

Hugh Coffey

Edmund Coffey

Martha Coffey

Martha Patsy Coffey



NEW_ADDRESS

R. K. Coffey P. O. Box **3**, Brighton, ONT K0K 1H0

Joan M. Low 34120 Greentrees, **Sterling** Hts. **MI** 48312

Pat Bennett **248** So. 200 West, Heber, UT 84032



MEET OUR NEW COUSINS

Jerry Coffee says that his sister Patsy Coffee is the researcher in his family and she has their clan back to 1791 in Prince Edward Co. Virginia. Her address is 1711 Ave. E, Brownwood, TX 76801.

Jerry gives his lineage as (1) Gerald MacArthur Coffee, son of (2) Peyton Joshua (1900 - 1979) and Virginia Estelle Gilmer (1900 - 1976) Coffee, son of (3) John T. (1868 - 1973) and Nora Kate Whaley (1874 - 1901) Coffee, son of (4) Joshua "Doss" (1839 - 1915) and Mary Blanton (1840 - 1882) Coffee, son of (5) Joshua (d.1881) and Delilah Conger Coffee, son of (6) Josheph (sic) and Mary Buckmark/Buckmaster Coffee. Josheph is the brother of Gen. John Coffee from Prince Edward Co. Virginia.

Anyone with information on Jerry's line might drop him a line. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from you. We will always be glad to have more information to print on this line in CCC.

Kenneth Coffey tells us that he descends from Hugh Coffey Sr. of Lancaster District S.C. and Henry Coffey of Landcaster District S.C. and Marlon Co. GA. We still hope hear more from him on his line.

Mabel Buckley heard of us from her cousin Ellen Coffey Wagner. She is descended from (1) Edmund F. and Elizabeth Thackeray Coffey parents of (2) John "Jack" C. Coffey, father of (3) Charles Edward Coffey, father of (4) Edwin Horsley Coffey, father of (5) Jesse Lee Coffey, Mable's dad.

Mable was in Ireland two years ago and found the family coat of arms at the Historic Families Ltd. facility. It is the one printed in C.C.C. with only a slight difference in the motto - Latin is the same - translation goes, "Not in Providence but in Victory." She was also told that the ermine tails in the arms denote royalty. She ask if anyone else has heard this? She also learned while in Dublin that there was a Coffey who was Lord Mayor of Dublin 1908 - 1909.

Frances B. Parkinson is looking for parents of Martha B. Coffey who was born in Kentucky in 1808 and married Charles Mallory Benbrook probably in Simpson Co., Kentucky or Illinois. She died Dec 2, 1889 probably in Pltsfield IL. or Natchez Mississippi. Frances says "I know next to nothing about my Coffey ancestors. Since the Benbrooks were in Simpson Co. KY in the 1820's and earlier, I believe that Martha B. descends from one of those listed there on the 1820 census. Charles and Martha (Coffey) Benbrook were in Illinois in early 1830. They followed Charles' brother Dr. D. G. Benbrook to Natchez MS, about 1836. He left Natchez and went to Pittsfield, IL. about 1873. He died there in 1883. My records are not clear as to where Martha was when she died in 1889." Frances would appreciate any help with this line and gladly pay postage, copy cost, etc. Let us know what you find.



MEET OUR NEW COUSINS CONTD.

Anna S. Cassell has lots of Coffey ancestors. First - She descends from G. Grandmother Mary Ann (Polly) Coffey (Jr.), who married Joseph Elzle Hays, also a Coffey descendent. Mary Ann (Polly) Coffey (Jr) was named for her mother Mary Ann (Polly) Coffey (Sr.). (This is why I am adding the Jr. and Sr.) Mary Ann (Polly) Coffey (Sr.) married her second cousin El Coffey son of Salathiel Coffey and Elizabeth. Mary Ann (Polly) Coffey (Sr.) was the daughter of Nathan and Mary Saunders Coffey. Both descend from Chesley and Jane Cleveland Coffey.

Anna's G. Grandfather Elzle Hays is the son of Gabriel Hays, Jr. and Martha (Patsy) Coffey who descends from Chesley Coffey through Joel and Cleveland.

Anna says that she still has problems with this line and would appreciate hearing from anyone else working on it. Coffey Cousins would appreciate hearing about any new research or finding you make on this line as there seems to be a lot of interest in the Chelsey research.

THE MAILBOX

Marcus Coffee writes that he had planned to attend the Convention this year but was not physically able to be with us. He will be pleased to hear that we are meeting in Boone, NC next year as this is not nearly as long a trip from Morristown, TN where Marcus lives. We'll look forward to seeing him next year. He also writes that there was a Coffey reunion in Berea, KY. It is held the second Sunday in June and is a basket dinner. Marcus says "The Kentucky Coffeys can really cook!" We hope that we can attend one of these years.

We send our condolences to Noreva J. Sharr's husband on the loss of his Aunt, Vesper Alice Coffey Kuhn, who died May 27, 1990. She was 95 years old. He has one Coffey Aunt left. She lives in King City, MO and is 86.

Congratulations is also in store for the Sharrs as they became Grandparents again. Dale and Dawn Sharr had a 8 lb. 3 oz. baby girl named Breann Carol Sharr.

We have heard from Lloyd Kerns of Kansas City, MO. He is interested in the Coffey's. We hope that we receive his lineage material before we have to go to press.

Pat Bennett says that they have moved to Utah and are going to see if they can handle the weather there. She says that at long last they are close to their children and adorable granddaughters and loving every minute of it. After they get settled she will hit the Mormon Archives in Salt Lake. I hope she finds lots of things that she can share with us. We'll be waiting.



CONVENTION NEWS

We've had nothing but good news from our Convention Chairman, Betty Coffey. She says that Boone has "grown out of it's britches". She has made arrangements for us to go back to THE HIGH COUNTRY INN again. It is under new management and is bigger and better than ever, according to Betty. Our old meeting room is Geno's Lounge. The outdoor pool is now indoor and Betty suggest that we start Friday evening (6 to 8 p.m.) with a POOL PARTY RECEPTION. She has planned ham biscuits, cheeses, veggies, fruit, etc and all for Just \$5.00. There isn't a confirmed price for the banquet as it is still too early but they gave us fantastic rates for rooms:

Double.....\$32.40
Single.....\$27.00

The High Country Inn is on Highway 105 Just at the edge of Boone, NC and is easy to spot as it has a working water wheel at the edge of the property. It has 120 tastefully decorated guest rooms and suites to choose from and is equipped with king or double beds, and color TV with complimentary movie channel. The Inn now has a sauna, hot tub, indoor heated pool, and weight/exercise room. Children under 16 stay in your room free. It even has CAMPER HOOK - UP.

"Now doesn't that sound like a great place to have a convention?" We have to thank Betty Coffey. She is an expert by now as this is the third convention she has arranged for us. Mark your calendars.

P.S. We would appreciate it if all of you would advertise our Coffey Convention in your local papers, genealogy club news, historical society news or any other way that you can think of. It will be appreciated by all of us. Thanks, BC

DEAD END ROADS

Freda Blessing would like some help with the Coffey line that she is presently working on. She says "My Ancestor is John Coffey who married Susanna Crocket. Their daughter Susanna, married my gr.gr.gr.grandfather, James Craig, in Lancaster Co. S.C ca 1792." Can anyone give Freda the names of John and Susanna's children? She has John, Susanna and Elizabeth. Any help on this family will be appreciated. Her address is 1005 Rockmont Circle, Conyers, GA 30207.



SPECIAL REPORTS

THE COFFEY CLAN

by Rev. H. W. Coffey, MBE MA.

The ancient tribal lands of the Coffey clan or sept as called in Ireland, around AD 1000, was in barony of Kilkenny West (nothing to do with County Kilkenny) in County Westmeath, Ireland.

The ancient Coffey Castle is in the 558 acre townland of Clonkeen in the parish of Noughaval in the north-west of the county and bordering on the River Shannon where it broadens out into Lough Ree.

When one visits this area today all that remains of the Old Coffey Castle are some stones at ground level, the old Coffey mansion of the early 1800's and tombstones in the local graveyard. Everywhere there are signs pointing out where Oliver Goldsmith (1728 - 1774) the author and poet lived and wrote his notable prose and verse that made him highly esteemed in literary circles. His best-known poem is "The Deserted Village" 1770 with lines about the village schoolmaster:

"And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew
That one small head could carry all he knew".

Equally famous are his novel "The Vicar of Wakefield" and the amusing play "She stoops to Conquer".

If visiting the ancient Coffey homeplace make the town of Athlone, 80 miles west of Dublin or 70 miles from Shannon Airport your base as there are good hotels there.

This article was sent to us by Bill Coffey of Victoria Australia. I hope that I can go to the Coffey Castle some day. Wouldn't it be great if we could have a convention there. Bill Coffey is the Editor of THE IRISH LINK. I can hardly wait for my first subscription.

COFFEY'S IN EUROPE

by Fran Coffey

Fran and Bess Coffey have returned from a trip to Europe. We wish to thank Fran for sending us his observations and statistics regarding Coffey's.

"When Bess and I returned from our trip to Europe, we were welcomed with the Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse June issue which had news about the annual convention in Woodbridge, Virginia. We were interested in finding out where next year's convention is going to be and we too hope we can be in Boone, North Carolina, with our "cousins".

When we were in Europe, we checked on the number of Coffeys in the phone books of five different cities. There were 110 in London; 3 in Edinburgh; 5 in Paris; 1 in Vienna; and 230 in Dublin. In Dublin there were three who used the Gaelic spelling of O'Cofalgh. In comparing the number of Coffeys, London is sixteen times larger than Dublin. In France, Coffey is spelled Coffy.

The Secretary of the Treasury Thomas Coffey in Ireland, whose name appeared on the paper money as Thomas O'Cofalgh when we were there eight years ago, apparently is no longer the head of the Bank of Ireland. We noticed that his name appeared on pound notes dated February 1989 but not on notes dated March 1989 or later. Probably he retired.

We noticed that there were no Coffees with that spelling in the European phone books we saw. I believe the Coffee spelling of Coffey came about by (1) presumptuous immigration officials; (2) careless census takers; or (3) Coffeys who finally gave up trying to teach their friends and associates how to spell Coffey.

One conclusion we made about our contact with the Irish after five days in Dublin and three days in County Cork: the Irish do not even know the meaning of the word, "rude." At least we never encountered one rude Irish person."

DOCUMENTS GALORE

ASSORTED DOCUMENTS



The following are records collected by Freda Blessing which she presented hoping they would be of help to some of the cousins.

From THE BASKIN (S) FAMILY

by Raymond Martin

"Andrew Baskin of Kershaw and Lancaster Counties, S.C. had two or three daughters: Isabella m. Hugh Mc Clain, Jr., _____ married Clement Stewart, and possibly Margaret married John Coffey"

From ROSTER OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS IN GEORGIA

"Peter Coffee, b. 1750, landed in America from Ireland; d. in Hancock County, GA. 1820. Served in the VA. Continental Army, private Capt. Benjamin Casey's 12th VA. Reg.; Also Capt. Michael Bower's Co., Col. James Wood Reg. Drew pension for his services. Married Sarah Smith of Prince Edward Co., VA. CHILDREN ARE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Elizabeth, b. 1775; mar. | 1. Charles Daniels |
| | 2. T. Ligan |
| 2. Susanna, | mar. T. Randall |
| 3. Nancy, | mar. 1. Abram Head |

Documents Galore Contd.

2. _____?
4. John, mar. Ann Penelope Bryan
(dau. of John Hill Bryan, Rev. Soldier-Gen. war 1812)
5. Sarah, mar. William Harris
6. Joshua, b. Dec. 27, 1786, bachelor, lived & died at
Darlen, Ohio.
7. Mary, (b. 3-5-1789) mar. Henry Gibson
8. Cynthia, (b. 2-5-1791) mar. Thomas Stocks
9. Martha, (b. 5-9-1793) mar. George Heard
10. Joshua (?)

NOTE; Joshua Coffee, brother of Peter Coffee came with him to America. Was a Rev. Soldier. Both Peter and Joshua Coffee had a son John Coffee; both of whom were Generals in the War of 1812.

From 1812 ANCESTOR INDEX 1892 - 1970
N.S.U.S. Daus. of War 1812

- COFFEE, John b. VA. 1772 d. AL. 1833, mar. Mary Donaldson (Brig. Gen. - son of Joshua Coffee) (son Andrew J. mar. Elizabeth Atwood Hutchison)
- COFFEE, John b. VA. 1782 d. GA. 1836, mar. Ann Penelope Bryan. (Gen. GA. Mil. Creek War 1813 - 14, son of Peter Coffee) (son John B. mar. Marcella Griffin, son Peter H. mar. Susan Ann Rogers)
- COFFEY, John b. PA. 1772 d. Ohio 1853, mar. Ruth Mitchell (Capt. Ohio Mil) dau. Isabella mar. Watson Douglas.

From THE PERSONAL AND FAMILY HISTORY OF CHARLES HOOKS AND MARGARET MONK HARRIS

by James Coffee Harris

- COFFEE - Peter and Joshua Coffee, brothers came from Ireland and settled in Prince Edward Co. VA. in 1750.
- John, son of Joshua moved to Tennessee and became a comrade of Andrew Jackson, whose niece, Mary Donaldson, he married. He died in Florence, Alabama 1831.
- His son, Andrew Jackson Coffee was brevetted Lt. Col. for bravery at battle of Buena Vista in 1847. He died in 1891.
- John T. Coffee moved to Missouri before 1861 - Col. in Civil War of 6th MO. Cavalry that fought on the Confederate side. He died in Missouri 1890.

John Coffee son of Peter Coffee was Gen. of the State Troops of GA. It was in appreciation of his service against the Creek Indians that a County in Georgia was named for him. He was also in Legislature and was elected to Congress twice - in 1833 and in 1835, dying on the day on which he was elected the second time.

ADAIR CO. KENTUCKY COURT RECORDS

Anna S. Caswell has supplied us with Court Records from Adair Co. KY. concerning the Coffey and Hays Families. They were copied by Mrs. Ruth P. Burdette of Columbia, Kentucky.

Order Book A-54 Mch. 8, 1803. Wm. Hays permitted to erect a water grist mill. Gholson Stapp his agent.

A-151 - Apt. 1, 1805 Gabriel Hays surveyor of the road from Campbell's Ferry toward Goose Creek in the room of Absolom Bellow.

Adair County Marriage Bonds - Gabriel Hays, Jr., and Martha (Patsey) Coffey, daughter of Cleveland Coffey, married, 12-23-1813, *(Who consents. She was under eighteen or born after 1796.)

Nathan Hays and Betsey Powell daughter of John Powell. daughter of John Powell.

Order Book B-Page 510, Apr. 1815, Gabriel Hays, Sr., appointed administrator. (1-12-1816)

Order Book E-1-17-1819, Gabriel Hays, Sr., dec'd, Gabriel Hays, Jr., appointed administrator.

Order Book B-489, Jan. 2, 1815, Cleveland Coffey, deceased, the widow, Jane Coffey, appointed administratrix. Bond for \$400.00 Gabriel Hays security.

Order Book B-508, Apr. 3, 1815, Jane (Witherspoon) Coffey, widow of Cleveland Coffey, deceased, appointed guardian to their children - Kitty Martha, George, Humphrey, Elijah, Walton, Jincy, and Cleveland. *(Kitty should probably be Celey)

Deed book F-355. June 11, 1825. George Coffey, Sealey (Celey) Coffey, Humphrey Coffey, Elijah Coffey, Walton Coffey, Gabriel Hays and Patsey his wife, late Coffey heirs of Cleveland Coffey, dec'd, by their attorney, Wm. Caldwell to Edward and Wm. Lawless, 101 acres on Greasy Creek Corners to Fielding, Joel and Nathan Coffey.

Green Co., Kentucky Marriage Bonds -

Ell Coffey and Mary Coffey

March 17, 1801

Witness: Newton Coffey

Coffey family from Draper Manuscripts 13DD-128-0129-131 interview with Mrs. Lucy Ballenger, Russell County, Kentucky.



Note from Editor: The following is a lengthy but very informative article on the possible personal standing of Edward Coffey. We hope that you enjoy it as much as we did. Since it is so long it will be necessary to print this article in two installments. The next issue will carry the final installment.

WAS EDWARD COFFEY A WILD GOOSE OR AN OLD-LINE VIRGINIAN?

In continuing the Wild Goose of Elre principle printed on page 1 of the Dec. 1988 issue of CCC, Frank S. Crosswhite has presented us with the following paper.

The book Irish Families by Edward MacLysaght (Dublin: Hodges Figgis and Co., 1957) makes frequent mention of "The Wild Geese". A recent article in the magazine Town and Country (March, 1988) tells how the Wild Geese were the thousands of Ireland's nobility who fled overseas as a result of the treaty of Limerick in 1691. Their lands were confiscated by the Crown when William was king. The "Wild Geese" are of interest to Coffey genealogists because it has been speculated that Edward Coffey came to Virginia about 1690 as a result of the "Williamite Confiscation" in Ireland (see James B. Coffey, Vol. II by Marvin Coffey, pg.17). This would be tantamount to calling him a Wild Goose.

Further research shows that the treaty of Limerick had to do with the Catholic religion of the Irish. It granted the Irish Catholics religious freedom and allowed them to live peacefully in Ireland if each would sign an oath of allegiance to Britain. It was known that many staunch Catholic Irishmen would never do this, so the treaty allowed those refusing to sign to be allowed to take passage to France where the State-recognized church was Roman Catholic. As a result of the treaty seven thousand of the wealthiest Irish Catholics took passage to France and from there many hopped around the world to various other countries. These were the Wild Geese in the classic use of the designation, although we use the term today for anyone who fled Ireland by necessity.

The winners at Limerick were Britain and her King, William of Orange. William had taken to the battlefield in Ireland himself and the French king had sent troops to fight on behalf of the Irish. Catholic were not any more welcome in colonial Virginia in 1690 than they were in Britain; it seems unlikely for a Wild Goose to settle in Virginia following the Treaty of Limerick. Colonial Virginia liked Protestant King William so much that it named King William County for him, as well as Orange County. Not to slight his Queen, it named King and Queen County for the pair as well as the colonial college (William and Mary). That Edward Coffey came to Virginia about 1690 as a result of the Williamite Confiscation seems less likely than other possible scenarios.

Lawrence H. Coffey in his book Thomas Coffey and his Descendants (pub.1931) states that he put the best material together to suggest that Edward came to Virginia about 1690 from Liverpool, England,

Edward Coffey Contd.

having originated in Ireland. This statement seems to be the original basis for those who claim that Edward immigrated to Virginia from across the ocean rather than having been born in America. However, Lawrence did not even know Edward's name, merely identifying him as the father of John and the other Coffey children of Essex County. Lawrence probably obtained the round date 1690 by extrapolating back to a suspected year of birth for John's father and then assuming that he immigrated as a young man. Some claim that Edward came in 1690 as an indentured servant. I question that Edward came as a result of the Williamite Confiscation, that he came as indentured servant, and that he came in 1690.

Indentures to pay for passage were generally for seven years although criminals might serve fourteen years before receiving their freedom. The indenture system in colonial Virginia was complex. It served for the training of apprentices as well as for the monetary reason of paying passage for someone who could not afford to have immigrated otherwise. Indentures for immigration grew out of the practice of indenturing orphans and sending them to America to choose a master. Unlike indentures of orphans already in Virginia, the immigrant who was indentured owed a bill for passage to the ship's captain. Since the new master paid the bill he had more of an interest vested in the servant than mere death of the master could erase. Indentures for reason of apprenticeship or orphanship ceased at death of the master, like in marriage, although indentures for monetary reasons could not be so simply relinquished. Of course a young orphan with a deceased master would have his helplessness erased by being re-indentured to someone, just as a widow who lacked financial resources would find it convenient to erase her need by "re-indenturing" herself by means of a new marriage. Since the termination of Edward Coffey's indenture coincided with Edward Moseley's death, an indenture for the ship's passage to America seems less likely than for local orphanship or apprenticeship reasons.

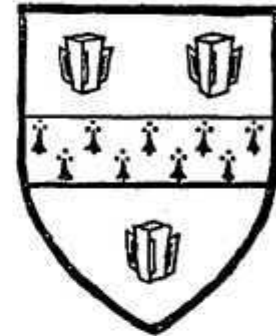
The 1690 supposed arrival date in America for Edward Coffey gained acceptance by Coffey scholars because Edward's indenture to Mosely (unknown to Lawrence Coffey) seemed to buttress Lawrence's earlier independent supposition. The 1690 date was likely a guess on Lawrence's part, however, as shown below. The part that came from old family tradition to Lawrence most likely was that the Coffey progenitor came to Virginia from Liverpool, England, but was Irish.

Genealogists have demonstrated repeatedly that Americans descended from old-line colonial Virginia families tend to underestimate the number of generations their families have been in this country. This syndrome, known as fore-shortening, often attributes details to a grandfather or great grandfather when they actually relate to a more distant generation and may actually confuse facts of one generation with tradition from another. Thus, a family of English origin having a grandfather with two brothers who were of marrying age about 1750, classically is re-told to state that three brothers immigrated together from England to America about 1750 and married. The common pattern is to remember back to some ancestor and then to suppose since nothing is known beyond this generation, then it was this person or

Edward Coffey Contd.

the person's parents who immigrated. Although there is no intention to deceive, a date of immigration is arrived at as an estimate. Unfortunately, such a date often gets firmly established in people's worksheets and published genealogies entirely without evidence.

One of the most common indentures in colonial tidewater Virginia resulted when a child's parents died. Such indentures were less common if the mother was still living because she usually remarried very soon to have a means of support. The new mate husbanded the wife and her possessions which were placed in his name in trust for her dower interests, the latter passing to her descendants rather than his. He was expected to serve as master of her minor children by previous marriages in trust for her interests, the relationship of master was often perpetuated by an indenture of the child. Scholars of colonial



social customs in Virginia point out that multiple marriages were the rule rather than the exception prior to about 1740 because sudden death from epidemic or Indian attack was so common during reproductive years then. The bane of the colonial Virginia genealogist is that records passing down in a given family often ignore these other marriages, so that books of collective genealogies often do not give the whole picture, listing only one marriage.

Many instances can be cited where a child was indentured to a woman's second or third husband after the woman died. Such indentures, in fact, can be a clue to such second or third marriages. Custom required that a child orphaned by death of mother who had re-married be indentured since the widower had no legal obligations to the child and no means of control or discipline unless the child were bound by an indenture. Death of the wife had erased the husband's mastery of the child as trustee of the wife. Generally a fully orphaned child was allowed to choose the person to whom it would be bound (from among any bidding, although often a mother's second husband or a person of some family connection), but once bound, the relationship was that of indentured servant. Actually during this period in history marriage itself was looked on as similar to an indenture, the wife essentially binding herself to the husband and promising to serve and obey him until death.

There is evidence that Edward Coffey was overseeing "Mosely's Quarter" at the time of Edward Mosely's death. This evidence is the use by Coffey of what the present author thinks must have been the plantation mark for Moseley's Quarter, as will be shown below. In any event, Moseley left Coffey a 2-year old heifer in his will. Coffey was undoubtedly living at Moseley's Quarter at the time (from other evidence) and Moseley obviously expected him to have a place to raise such livestock in the future. Moseley specifically referred to him as his "servant Ed. Coffe" in the will. Was this to specifically remind everyone that Edward was a servant rather than a step-son so that he could not claim a greater inheritance on the theory that he should have inherited his mother's dower? Edward Moseley clearly felt

Edward Coffey contd.
 affection for Edward Coffey and envisioned him raising cattle, as a helper is the means by which young cattle are born. But by the same token he wanted to look out for the interests of his own blood descendants. Perhaps Edward Coffey was living happily and productively on land owned by Edward Moseley, only thinking of him in the sense of a father-figure when suddenly Moseley died and status of both Edward Coffey and the land came into question with Moseley's heirs. In any event, Edward Coffey quickly received a Judgement for his freedom, corn and clothes, indicating that the indenture was terminated. This would have been the time for a mere servant to have moved on to obtain a start of his own. It is obvious, however, that Edward Coffey's roots were already set down. Edward Coffey's heirs were eventually to have ownership recorded for "Moseley's Quarter", the 200-acre plantation of the deceased Edward Moseley, as a result of a complicated deed which suggests that Edward Coffey was living on this land at the time of his death but had either not yet obtained full ownership or that the full ownership and its consideration had not previously been recorded.

Marvin Coffey (see James Coffey Vol.11, pg.18) has pointed out that the two hundred acres, although willed by Edward Coffey to his sons Edward, Jr., and John, was deeded to these sons by the heir of Edward Moseley upon the death of Edward Coffey, Sr. This would make it appear that Edward Coffey, Sr., never had a land deed during his lifetime, even though he bequeathed what he considered his own land to his sons in his will. This must have been the land where Edward Moseley expected Edward Coffey to raise the heifer (and her increase) mentioned in Moseley's will. Indeed, the land is proven to have been no other than "Moseley's Quarter" itself by various deeds in the title chain. Edward Coffey, Sr., must have been either a trusting soul or had such an unquestioned degree of authority that it never occurred to him that his land should be made over to him by some paper which could be used to sell or transfer it. This may be because he was himself the authority figure for the Moseley plantation. He clearly had been operating the old Moseley plantation as his own without benefit of deed. In genealogy it is necessary to understand precipitating factors. Legal documents can be correctly interpreted only when the precipitating factors are understood. For example, a person might believe that a land entry recorded in Burke County, North Carolina in 1778 to 1782 might indicate that a person entering the land moved there that year. In reality that person may have lived on the land for many years, the registration being precipitated by the Revolution and opening of the Burke County land entry office by the Whig government in 1778 and its closing in 1782.

Records left concerning Edward Coffey, Sr., seem to have been in two flurries, one from 1699-1700, the other in 1716. During the first flurry, Edward Moseley died mentioning Edward Coffey in his will, then Coffey married and his indenture was certified by the Moseley estate to be terminated. It is important to note here that the Moseley will itself was not the instrument precipitating termination of the indenture, but rather it was the death of Moseley which precipitated it. There is an important distinction which will become apparent

Edward Coffey contd.

later. During the second flurry, Edward Coffey died and the Moseley heir deeded the estate "Moseley's Quarter" to Coffey's heirs.

Now enters a very revealing piece of evidence. Edward Coffey, Sr., apparently had the custom of signing the Moseley plantation mark as early as 1700. Here a little explanation is needed. The colonial plantation mark or seal has been likened to the brand used for marking cattle in the American west. Although it was undoubtedly used for marking cattle belonging to the plantation, it was much more than a brand. It can be compared with the seal of ancient times used as a "signature" by an authority figure. In colonial Virginia, tobacco was used as currency. The plantation seal, burnt like a brand into the tobacco cask, was like the signature on today's bank notes. It guaranteed the legitimacy of the cask's contents as conforming to the standard of quality and purity that allowed its use as money. The device for making the mark was well guarded by the plantation owner to prevent what would have been practically the same as counterfeiting.

All persons, whether knowing how to read or not, knew the marks of local plantations and identified the marks with the owners. The marks were used in various tobacco warehousing documents and in receipts. The marks were not limited to livestock branding or tobacco warehousing, however, particularly if the present theory of Edward Coffey's sue of the Moseley plantation mark is correct. Slaves when trusted on errands or allowed to be out on their own were required to have a pass with the "master's mark" and it was necessary for anyone challenging them, whether literate or not, to readily recognize the mark. Anyone making the plantation mark was either 1) the owner, 2) an overseer having what amounted to today's "power of attorney," or 3) a forger.

The mark which Edward Coffey made to legal documents was a stiff capital M with a straight top, long dangling straight but somewhat angled legs, and something of an uphill bent. It has the characteristic look of a livestock brand of today and although I have only read about the plantation marks burnt onto tobacco casks, it looks exactly like what would be expected.

Typewritten copies of papers with Edward's mark usually merely show it as an x which we have grown accustomed to recognizing as the universal mark of the illiterate. To oversee a plantation a person had to understand numbers and to be able to read and write a mark somewhat more distinctive than a z, a mark which represented the plantation.

TO BE CONTINUED - NEXT ISSUE

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 1991 CONVENTION IN BOONE N.C.

