



# COFFEY COUSINS' CLEARINGHOUSE



September 2007

Issue NO. 106

ISSN 0749-758X

Founder: Leonard N. Coffey. b. Mar 21, 1930 - d. Jan. 29, 1989

270 YEAR OLD PATERNITY CASE SOLVED

see page 15

Dear Cousin,

This issue is really packed. I had a hard time placing and replacing things so they would all fit.

Be sure to read the beginning of the Thorn Hill story in the last Issue #105, page 16, before reading the one on page 12 in this Issue, #106. It is easier to follow that way.

Then, I also suggest that you read the story "Annister or Austin Coffey on page 12, Issue 105. You will see where Fred Coffey has gone with his research on James Coffey, illegitimate son of Annister. I'm still amazed at what he has found. I only wish Marvin and Leonard Coffey could have seen it. This is a very good example of

just what a DNA project can do for Coffey research.

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
***bculley@embaqmail.com***

Jim is doing well. He is walking now, slow but walking. See you in Virginia in May.

Your cousin,  
Bonnie

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This Mailing ..... 250

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From: Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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**SURVEY RESPONSE**

There were 27 responses to the survey.

1. Only two have never attended a convention.

2-4. The majority agreed that the April-June time frame and 3-4 days is satisfactory.

5. The majority also agreed that motels/hotels such as Days Inn, Hampton Inn, etc., in the price range of \$60 to \$70 per night is acceptable.

6. Some asked that consideration be given to holding future conventions in historic areas (parks, cities, etc) and near major market airports. In general however, responses were all over the board and seem to mirror the types of locations in which we have met in the past.

7. The question concerning establishing a formal organization elicited some very good comments, and with the exception of two respondents, all were against establishing anything resembling a formal organization. Typical comments:

- Not necessary, but interested in other responses.
- Enjoy friendliness, warmth and family that we have in lieu of formal organization. We are unique.
- Prefer low key
- There should be a little more formality as a whole. Guidance and assistance needed in hosting a convention.
- Like it the way it is.
- Needs to be more formal.
- No! Keep it the same.

9. Responses to whether or not CC should collect dues and/or fees to attend a convention were mostly no. Some felt that a small registration fee would be acceptable to defray general expenses.

10. Like the responses to location, the question concerning tours were mixed. Many like the tour bus idea while others prefer to tour on their own.

The overall majority appears to be in favor of continuing with the meeting format that CC has followed since inception.

11-12. A number of those who responded have hosted past conventions. Most who have not previously hosted said that they would not be willing to host in the future. Reasons, when given, were mostly health related.

We will be happy to send copies of the responses to anyone who would like to make their own interpretation. Please provide postage.

**NEW NAMES**

Donald P. Coffey, 1053 Howell ST.S., St. Paul MN 55116  
 Juanita Cranfield, 614 Shoemaker St., Athens, TN 37303

**ANCESTOR**

John  
 Cleveland

**NEW COUSINS**

\* Donald Coffey is looking for any information on John Coffey born 1802 in Ireland. John arrived in New York on the Ticonderoga in 1852 with children; Michael 1827, Anthony 1837, William 1841, Catherine 1834, Elizabeth 1839, Margaret 1836, and Mary Ann 1843, all born in Ireland. John's wife is Catherine born 1806 also in Ireland. She followed the family to New York with son James born 1831, on another ship.

Michael and Anthony enlisted in the Union Army's 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company E, from Iowa in August 1862. Michael Coffey died Oct. 4, 1867 and was buried in Holy Family Cemetery, Davenport, Scott Co. Iowa. Anthony Coffey moved to S. Paul, MN and married Ann Loftus from Ireland. Anthony died Nov 13, 1905. The Death Notice appeared in the newspapers in Muscatine, IA and Helena, MN. If you can assist Don in any way with this research - ideas of how to find them in Ireland or other records to look for in this country, he would appreciate it. His email address is coffdp@aol.com.

\*Juanita Cranfield is working on a lot of Coffee/ey relatives. Preferably, at present, she is looking for more information on her great grandfather's brothers. Juanita's father is William Earl Coffey son of William Edward Coffee. Her great grandfather

is Cleveland Monroe Coffee, son of Joel Coffee and grandson of Cleveland Coffee (1780- 1843) who married Martha Brown. Cleveland Monroe Coffee's brothers are; William, b. 1837, NC; Abraham, b. 1839, GA; Andrew, b. 1843, GA; Rufus Asbury, b. 1845, GA; Joel, b. 1847, GA; Allen, b. 1848, GA. Juanita's address is in the new cousins list. Her e-mail; Squealerznanal@aol.com.

**COMPUTER NEWS**

Visit the new website at, <http://www.thecoffeycousins.org/coffeycousins.html>.

There is plenty of room for files on the new server. Anyone wishing to add files to the collection already there (family group sheets, GEDCOMs, family history write-ups, etc.) can send them to jkcoffee@yahoo.com. If Yahoo rejects the attachment send them to me at jack.coffee@gmail.com.

An Edward Coffey/Ann Powell CD is available for only \$7.50 postage and handling. The CD was created using Roots Magic, my favorite genealogy program. A CD with similar data on descendants of Jordan Coffey is also available for the same shipping and handling cost. Use either of the above e-mail addresses to ask for additional info. Also, anyone who wants to can pay via Pay Pal by using the e-mail address

jkcoffee@yahoo.com ,  
 110 Lydia Road, St. Joseph, and LA 71366.

**OBITUARIES****THURMAN LANNING**

Thurman Julius Lanning of Springfield, OR died July 18, 2007, of age-related causes at age 88.

He was born Sept. 3, 1918, in Canton, N.C., to Charles and Lydia Wyatt Lanning. He married Irene Ksza on Feb. 18, 1942, and she died Aug. 20, 1952. He married E. Ruth Woods on Dec. 20, 1952 in Eureka, Calif. She died July 27, 2002.

Lanning served in the Army Air Corps from 1938 to 1945, including service in World War II, and was awarded the Good Conduct medal, combat infantryman badge and a bronze service star. He worked in sawmills for 28 years. He held an associate's degree from the Lighthouse of International Foursquare Evangelism Bible College.

Survivors include a son, David of Palm Springs, Calif.; three daughters, Elizabeth Devereaux and Lisa Voris, both of Springfield, and Kathy Bavaro of Newport; a brother, Jesse of Eugene; a sister, Charlotte Johnson of Springfield; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Burial will be in Springfield Memorial Gardens.

**ALTA CHRISTINE COFFEY COFFMAN**

Alta Christine Coffey Coffman, age 84, of Washburn, TN, passed away Aug. 4, 2007. She was at

the home of her daughter and son-in-law, with her family by her side. She was saved early in life at Dotson's Campground Methodist Church. She later joined Bridgeport Missionary Baptist Church where she was a dedicated Christian and served as Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer for many years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Conley Coffman; two infant sons, Douglas and Dennis Coffman; parents, Rev. Tarrence and Susan Coffey; father and mother-in-law, Dan and Stella Coffman; sister and brother-in-law, Kathleen and L.C. Rucker; brother, Rev. Avery Coffey; brothers-in-law, Elvin Harrell, James (Woody) Long, Leonard (Lynn) Dalton, and Clyde (Sam) Jones, Kenneth Coffman and wife, Edna, and former son-in-law, Charles Ellis.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Lynda Coffman of Jefferson City, TN; daughters and sons-in-law, Brenda and Kenneth Searce of Washburn; Darlene and Larry Talley of Whitesburg; daughters, Debbie Dalton of Sneedville, Diana Hayes of Morristown; sisters, Lillian Harrell of Thorn Hill, and Juanita Long and Delta Dalton, both of Washburn; brothers and sisters-in-law, Rev. Samuel and Lena Coffey of Thorn Hill, and William and Mary Lou Coffey of Davisburg, Mich.; brother-in-law, Carter Coffman and wife, Mary, of Luttrell; sisters-in-law, Berneze McCarroll and husband, H.E., of

Knoxville, Louise Williams and husband, C.H., of Mesa, Ariz., and Margie Sharpe and husband, Bob, of Maynardville.

Burial in the Dalton Cemetery. Arrangements by Coffey Funeral Home in Tazewell.

(Info; Bennie Coffey Loftin)  
- Citizen Tribute Aug. 6, 07)

#### EDITH COFFEY VINES

Edith Coffey Vines, 86, died January 24, 2007, Lenoir, NC. Funeral is 11 AM Saturday at Pendry's Funeral Home. Interment in New Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery.

(The NC Charlotte Observer, Jan. 25, 07 - Bennie Loftin & Lorie Okel)

#### RAYMOND EVERETT COFFEY Jr.

Raymond Everett Coffey Jr., 48, of Roanoke, VA, died Tuesday, June 12, 2007 following a short illness. Known to many as Ray, he was born Nov. 2, 1958 in Bluefield, son of the late Raymond and Bertha Coffey. He grew up in Pocahontas, Va., where he graduated from Pocahontas High School. Raymond was employed by the city of Roanoke for the past 22 years, as a mechanic and most recently with the Western Virginia Water Authority.

Raymond is survived by: His son, Raymond A. Coffey of Roanoke and his mother, Helen Garinian; sisters: Tammie Lyn Crews and her husband, Scott of Roanoke, Patricia Mae Hash and her husband, Donald of

Waynesboro, Dianna Rae Catron and her husband, Kenny of Spotsylvania, Va.

Interment will be at Grandview Memory Gardens in Bluefield, VA. (Bluefield Daily Times, Bluefield, W.VA, Jun. 24, 07) Jack Coffee

#### GLENNA KEITH COFFEY MOORE

Glenna Keith Coffey Moore, age 70 passed away July 27, 2007, Dallas TX. She had lived the past two years with ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. She was born November 22, 1936 in Big Spring, TX as the daughter of John Askew Coffey and Margareta Sanders Coffey. The Coffeys were schoolteachers and instilled the teacher traits of patience and grace with their daughter. Glenna graduated from Baylor University in 1959 with a B.A. (Education). Glenna married William Alvin Moore jr. in 1963.

She leaves four children, Melana Love Moore, William Alvin Moore III, & twins, Margaret Elizabeth, & John Hardin Moore.

(Extracted from; Dallas Morning News, July 29, 07 - Jo Langwell)  
(Glenna's father John Askew Coffey was an early Coffey researcher & long time subscriber to CCC)

#### VERNON COFFEY

Vernon Christopher Coffey, 84 of Ft. Madison, IA, died 21 June 2007 at his home. Born, December 17, 1922 in Holbrook, he was the son of Christopher and Addie Schneider Coffey. On April 21 1948, he married LaVerne Francis Denning in

Houghton, Iowa.

Mr. Coffey is retired from the former Watson Distributing Co. He served in the Army during WWII with the 38<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion and landed in the first wave on Omaha Beach on D-Day.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Gary Coffey of Wever and Michael Coffey of Urbandale; five daughters, JoAnn Coffey of St. Louis, Cindy Crement of Spring Grove, IL, Colleen Krogmeier of Donnellson, Michelle Richers of Marion and Erin Tieman of St. Joseph, MO.; two sisters, Rose Vergemini of Council Bluff and Alyce Jane Reichardt of Marion. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and one sister.

Burial in Oakland Cemetery Ft. Madison.

Vernon Coffey is a DNA participant.

(The Hawk Eye, Aug 25, 2007)

## **NEW ADDRESS**

Loren Jenkins, 1493 Richardson Dr.,  
#238, Richardson, TX 75080  
Reams Goodloe, P.O. Box 9332,  
Covington, WA 98042  
Charlie McKinley, 428 N. Horseshoe  
Dr., Somerset, KY 42501

## **NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**

Jack Coffee, Jack.coffee@gmail.com  
Reams Goodloe, goodloev@bellsouth.net  
Carol Coffee, coffeeca@embarqmail.com  
Marianne Morrison, morrisom@verizon.net  
Bonnie Culley, bculey@embarqmail.com

## **MAIL BOX**

\* Juanita Coffey wrote that Ben Coffey Sr. is ill and no longer able to do genealogy. He is not bedfast. We are sorry to hear of his illness and hope that he improves.

\* Doug Coffey of Chattanooga, TN says that he was sorry to have to miss the convention this year. He was rehabbing from knee replacement. Hope he is much better and we will look for him in Virginia in 08.

\* Matthew and Amanda Kincaid announce the birth of their son, Konner Preston, born April 17, 07. His grandparents are Dillon and Pat Harrell and Randy and Kay Kincaid, all of Thorn Hill. He is the great grandson of Gaynbell Larmer, Gale Harrell, Frances Coffey and the late Garfield Larmer, Mary Harrell, Jack Coffey & Mary Kincaid. Gale is descended from Beautra & Mae Coffey, dau of Willis Colby & Malissie Reece. Willis, in turn is descended from John & Elizabeth Rucker, dau of Colby Rucker. (Guess we're 'kin!)

\* LaVonne Hoel wrote, "I just want to tell the latest about me to some of you that might be wondering. My last pet-scan was much better than the one I had in May. I will continue my treatments for about 3 more months and go from there. Thank you for your prayers. You will never know how much they help. Keep praying.

These treatments take a lot out of both Dean and I." (Thanks for the good news. Please all keep praying.)

\*Cecile Purcell says that her husband Jack has Parkinsons. She needs all the cousins to keep him in their prayers.

\*Jamie Key says that the recent newsletter, which mentioned the Chenaults was interesting to her. Her dad was in construction and they moved to Owensboro, KY in 1968. Her brother became friends with a David Chenault that lived on their street, Parrish Avenue. (May have been part of our Coffey line?) Strange Coincidence! Jamie also noticed that we printed info from Connie Connolly Platt, which is one of Jamie's cousins. Connie's mother, Beatrice Key Connolly was Jamie's Aunt. Jamie also says that they have found that Ivey Jackson Key was a male (odd first name), he was her grandfather. She says "Fun to read the newsletters. You never know what's next."

\* Bennie Loftin says, "My niece Avonda Coffey's 52 year old husband died on Aug. 18th with lung cancer and now she has colon cancer. I am busy helping take her to Tulsa for her treatments, either a chauffeur or sitter." Hope Avonda is better by now. colon cancer runs in our side of the family. (Bonnie)

## Dead End Roads

\* Chris Chadwick, c.chadwick87@ntlworld.com, says "Dear Bonnie, please could you point me in the right direction, to make some connections with these Coffey cousins, or more likely, their children. I found a number of photos of them in my father's desk, after he died. I have a newspaper cutting of Ivy Ruth Coffey, who married Robert Knott Jr. at Ashland Trinity Episcopal church, Oregon, Nov 15th 1953. She was an international exchange student, her widowed mother Violet coming from New Delhi. I have a photo of Ivy Ruth, her husband and son Peter, aged about 8, taken in April 1962 in California, possibly LA. I know she had 2 older sisters Bidy and Gloria and one younger Colleen, and 2 brothers: Vernon and another whose name I don't know.

Her father, James William Coffey (known as Dill ), was born in Warrington, Lancashire, England Sept 12th 1880, and went to India where I gather he met Violet. I don't know when or where he died.

Then, a Bidy Coffey married a man called McKay, before March 1956, and lived in California. I have a photo of her in Sacramento, taken July 1962. Her son, Malcolm Rex McKay was born in 1955/56.

A Gloria Coffey married in Portland Oregon, about 1960 & lived in California. She had a daughter, Lynn. Irvington, California may have been the home of one of the sisters in the 1960's

Thank you for any help you can give me, kind regards, Chris Chadwick. (Anyone know anything about these people? Bonnie)

\* Bob Coffey says; "I have a question about a person that was a member of CCC at one time and I wonder if you know about her and could give me her current email address? The one I am speaking of is Paula Sandusky from Vacaville, California. I had an exchange of several emails in the year 2000, but for some reason we stopped and I wonder if you know if she is still around and still a member. Thank you, Bob Coffey, bjcoffey@netwurx.net. (Do any of you have a current mailing or e-mail address for Paula?)

\* Kathy Harmon, katrel@verizon.net hopes that you can help her with this family. She wrote to Jack Coffee saying, "I saw your Coffey info on the genealogy web site. I am seeking info on my grandmother and family. I never knew my grandmother growing up. I just recently got her name. My father and mother were divorced around 1956 and he never stayed around. I want to find out all I can on both sides of the family to leave to my children and grandchildren. It has been a void in my life all these years. I am willing to share any information I have with you."

Grandmother's name is Gertrude Coffey born 1907-09 in KY and is the daughter of Ollie A.

Coffey and Nettie Dawson of KY. Gertrude married, about 1920 to my grandfather Oscar Harmon (b. 1900). They had 4 children. My father is Oscar R. Harmon jr. b. 9 Aug 1926."

Jack responded with some help for her to build on but suggested that she request a query in the newsletter for more help from you - the cousins. Jack's response:

It appears that Olie (or Ollie) was the son of Isaac and Arabella Coffey. Isaac was born Aug. 1854 in Kentucky (probably Green Co.) and Arabella was born Nov 1851, also in Kentucky. They were parents of eight children, six of which survived to 1900. Census records:

Isaac was born in Kentucky in about 1854 and was a blacksmith in Grove, Green Co., KY. Arabella was also born about 1854 in KY. In 1880 they had children John, born about 1874 and Homer, born about 1879-80. In 1880 there was a Mary J. Self in the household, age 58. She is probably Arabella's mother.

In 1900 they lived in Greensburg, Green Co., KY. Isaac was the jailer in Greensburg. Children in the household were: Omar (Homer), born May 1879; Olie, born Jul. 1892; George M., born Jun. 1886; Mary E., born Mar. 1888; and Lizzie, born Feb. 1892. It appears the older son John was married & away from home by 1900.

Olie and Nettie must have married around 1907 in Green Co. They were there in 1910 with two children. One was a daughter



whose name I cannot yet read (it looks like Gistimie, but probably Gertrude), age 3; and a son Winfrey, age 1 yr. 2 mos.

Olie and Nettie were still in Greensburg, Green Co., KY in 1920. Olie was 36 yrs. old and Nettie was 31. Both were born in KY. Their children at that time were Gertrude A., age 12, Winfrey, a son, age 10, and Naomi B., age 2 yrs., 3 mos.

Looks like Olie and Nettie remained in Green Co. all their lives. They were still there in 1930 when Olie (Ollie) was 47 yrs old and Nettie was 41. Children were Bessie N., age 13, Ray, age 9 and Anita C., age 7, and Elizabeth Mayme (looks like), age 2.

Oscar Harmon and Gertrude were in the Hamilton Co., OH census for 1930. Oscar was born 1900-01. They had been married for six years. Oscar was a "shear man" in an office furniture factory. Their children were Eileen, age 5 and Oscar, Jr., age 3 yrs., 8 mos. There is a death record in Norwood, Hamilton co., OH for an Oscar R. Harmon, born 1900, who died 22 Nov. 1975 at Good Samaritan Hosp. His death cert. no. is 081416. I did not find a death date for Gertrude.

\* Mary Coffey Mitchel, nitewriter@hush.com, says, "I am the granddaughter of Robert Lawrence and Lula Luvina Hart Coffey of Calwell County, Lenoir, North Carolina. My father and mother, Lawrence Craig and Maggie (Peggy)

Lee Benfield Coffey were married in Lenoir in 1949. I am the oldest of 4 children. Mary 1950, Lawrence Craig 1952, Daniel Lee 1958, Frank Crane 1963 Finely, (Half bro.). Children born to Robert were Frances, Ruth, Lem, Lawrence, Florence, Alice, Grace, Dan, and Sara Nelll. Robert had a brother named Fred (and a boy Arther died very young). It is believed but not proven, that a Robert Coffey was once Sheriff of Lenoir and was at the surrender of Grant to Lee in the civil war. I Iove history and am a retired fulltime sub teacher, all grades." Please help Mary if you recognize this family.

\* Juliana Lumpkin is working on the line from her great grandfather, John Coffee. He was born ca 1852 in Indiana and resided in Ft. Smith, AR in 1877. If you can help her, Juliana's address is P.O. Box 1, Covington, TX 76636-0001.

\* Mary Mowat, mary7m@hotmail.co.uk, says; "My name is Mary from Glasgow Scotland, and I am doing research into my family. My great great gran`s maiden name is Coffey. She married Matthew Dinan and she had a daughter Margaret who married my great granddad James Weir. Margaret and James had a son Matthew Weir who was born 1889. James Weir died and Margaret married again in 1896 St Anthony`s Roman Catholic Church, Glasgow to Patrick McEwan ... , it is a shot in the dark but I

cannot find my grandfathers birth certificate in Scotland or Ireland or his marriage certificate so I was just wandering if any of the info above connects to anyone in your newsletter.....I do not know where Matthew and James Weir were born .....Thank you for your time reading this ..... Kind Regards Mary x"

\* Everette (Buddy) Coffey, says; "I am trying to find my grandfather. My father was Everette Earsten Coffey Sr.; he had a brother Alfred that I knew and two sisters (Mae and?). My father was born before 1898- - not sure when. I remember going to MO and AK visiting relatives there. He moved to OK and was listed in the census there. I had three half-brothers, Alvin, Fred and Bob; all would have been born before 1920 I believe. We received some information when he died as being born around Gainesville, TX, but Dad claimed MO as home - he may have not known he was born in TX as he had to quit school in the second grade due to his mother dying I believe. I have found a picture of my grandfather in an old box, but it has no name. We have managed to make out a Masonic pin on the lapel. If you have any information on this side of the Coffey's I would greatly appreciate it. I keep getting dead ends for my father. I was told by a friend our middle name (yeah, I'm a JR.) was hyphenated in the Indian wording

(Ears-Ten), I have since found that it was a disgrace to be American Indian blood in the time period of my father. Perhaps that was the reason my mother told me it was a battle getting my father to let me be a Jr., after all I was his fourth son. Never seemed to be a concern till I reached the 50 mark a few years ago and my grand kids asked where Coffey came from. Any thing you have relating to this would be greatly appreciated. E. E. Buddy Coffey, eecoffey@msn.com

## **CURRENTS IN THE STREAM**

Fred Coffey approached Mary McCarty of the Dayton Daily News about a story that she had written for the newspaper about one Russell Coffey age 108. He did take the DNA test and the results are on the DNA page of the Coffey Cousins Web page.

Jack Coffee did some research on Russell's parentage and found the following:

The earliest info that can be found on Russell begins in Crawford Co., OH in 1850. The entire family remained in Crawford Co., OH up to at least Russell.

Working from Russell back:

1900 Census: Russell, born Sep. 1898, son of George, born Jan. 1869 in OH (Surname spelled Coffey in census; George was a farmer)  
1880 Census: George in household with Michael and Mary B. Coffey [sic].

Michael was a farmer who was born in OH, father in Ireland and mother in NY.

Mary and her parents were born in Baden (Germany).

1870 Census: George, born c1865\*, son of Michael, born 1837 in OH. (Surname spelled Coffee; Michael was a wagon maker)

1860 Census: Michael, born c1833\*, born OH, wife is named Barbara, born Baden. George obviously not born yet. (Surname is spelled Coffee; Michael is wagon maker)

In 1850 Jack found Michael in the household with 36-yr old Michael Sheridan. (Surname spelled Coffee; Michael was a wagon maker, born Ireland, and wife Ann, age 48, born NY). Ann may be Michael's remarried mother. Other children in the family were:  
 Michael Coffee, age 13, born OH  
 Matthew Lynch, age 11, born Ireland  
 Andrew Coffee, age 9, born OH  
 John Coffee, age 4, born OH  
 Margaret Sheridan, age 4, born OH

Jack says that he didn't find anything about the Coffee family on Ancestry. Neither did he check 1840 because I don't know who Michael's father was. He haven't checked Ancestry for the Sheridan family either but did find the following WWI military record for James RUSSELL Coffey:

Name: James R. Coffey  
 Serial Number: 5284607  
 Race: W  
 Residence: Creston, O.  
 Enlistment Division: National Army  
 Enlistment Location: Columbus, O.  
 Enlistment Date: 12 Oct 1918  
 Birth Place: New Washington, O.  
 Birth Date / Age: 1 Sept 1898  
 Assigns Comment: Students' Army Training Corps OSU Columbus O to Discharge  
 Private Honorable discharge 12 Dec 1918.

Volume #: 3 Official Roster of Ohio Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the World War, 1917-1918. Vol. I-XXIII. Columbus, OH, USA: F. J. Heer Printing Co., 1926.  
 (\*age differences are likely result of census taker error)

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### The Coffee/Coffey Surname Project: Russell Coffey

Hello Cousins,

I'm doing this in part because some of you who attended the Coffey Convention in Dubuque, Iowa, heard us talk about an interesting new participant named Russell Coffey, who is age 108 and one of the last 3 living WWI Veterans? We were each hoping he would prove to be OUR cousin, and I promised to keep everyone informed.

Russell's results are now back, and unfortunately he has joined our "Unknown" group - no other tested person matches Russell's DNA. Now we can all watch to see if another "Coffey" joins the project in the future who proves to be related to Russell.

I also write to remind you that you can all keep up with our progress at our web page (including a little more info about Russell) at <http://members.aol.com/FredCoffey/CousinsDNA.htm>

And also remember we are always looking for new recruits.

With our best wishes,  
 Fred Coffee, fredcoffey@aol.com  
 Lorie Okel, ljokel@comcast.net

**DOCUMENTS GALORE****THORN HILL before it was  
THORN HILL**

(Continued from issue 105, page 16) from Bennie Loftin by way of Eva Jean (Dalton) Coffey

"He wouldn't be going 10 miles per hour. All she would go." Some fellows, said Wilbur, "used to catch the back of one of them going up the mountain on a bicycle. It'd pull you to the top."

Both Coffeys grew up learning to do everything according to the moon phases, not just planting but everything from killing hogs and burning brush to building rail fences and spreading manure. "I tell you what," grinned Wilbur, "I was hauling manure, spreading it out in the tobacco field. This older fella came by and said 'Wrong time of the moon. That'll work to the top of the ground all summer.'" I said 'ah, surely not.' He was right." Wilbur remembers the manure working to the top of the ground every time he plowed that year.

Many people know to plant by the signs, but Wilbur recalls other lessons, "Kill a hog on the new of the moon." He declared, "You can't render that lard. It'll cook out of the kittle on you every time. You'll work yourself to death trying to keep it in the kittle. Dig a hole on the new of the moon; you'll have dirt left. Dig a hole on the old moon...you won't have

enough to fill it back up."

If one burns brush on the new of the moon, continued Wilbur, it will all burn up. Potatoes should be planted on the old of the moon, he advised. If planted on the new moon, they will stay on top of the ground and sunburn. "Everything goes up on the new of the moon. On the old moon it goes down. That's why you sew seed on the old of the moon...because they go in the ground and come back up. You get your top frond drops and underground crops...you got to know what you're doing.

The new moon is a good time to lay a split rail fence, though he added. If it is laid on the old of the moon, it will "go way to the ground." He goes another step further referring to Ember Days. "One of those Ember Days is poison, they claim." He said. "I never did know which one it was. East wind blowing cool or something on Ember Day, if you cut tobacco, it'll cure out green every time." He went on to say that there are three Ember Days at a time. The Old Farmer's Almanac corroborates Wilbur's statement remarking that Ember Days are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays that follow after (1) the First Sunday in Lent; (2) Whitsunday - Pentecost; (3) the Feast of the Holy Cross, September 14, and (4) the Feast of St. Lucia, December 13. Those were days marked by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches for prayer fasting and ordination of clergy. The Old Farmers Almanac adds

that the weather on each of the three days foretells the weather three successive months. For example, September's Ember Days, Wednesday's weather foretells the weather for October, Friday for November and Saturday for December.

Wilbur and Kathryn's childhood training of working hard, learning to plan ahead, and looking at the big picture has paid off for them as well as the community where they live. It gave them the character to succeed in life even as the entire world changed around them as brothers went off to the wars, indoor plumbing and electricity became common, store bought food became the norm rather than the exception and farming became less and less lucrative. In 1977 they liquidated their dairy business and opened Oakwood, an oak furniture factory in Thorn Hill, which they operated until 1998. Their products included tables, china cabinets, washstands, etc. and found customers as far away as Washington and Canada. They employed 20 - 25 people, working two shifts. "We started with an old rough board," says Kathryn, "planed it, ripped it up in small pieces, glued it back together." This process resulted in a stronger piece of furniture, she stated, adding that they seldom used a board over three inches in width.

That very same year, they were also instrumental in founding

the Thorn Hill Volunteer Fire Department with Wilbur on of the founding members and Kathryn at one time their secretary. They pulled out the old spiral notebook in which the minutes of the meetings were kept. Kathryn read from the minutes of the first meeting. "Residents of Thorn Hill met in a mass meeting." She and Wilbur both burst out laughing. "I bet there was half a dozen," chuckled Wilbur. They started out with an old '46 Ford and a '68 Chevy. They've come a long way since then, however many pig roast later with a membership of over 20 and several new and efficient trucks.

Nowadays, the Coffeys enjoy their retirement working in the yard, which is beautifully landscaped, keeping up with the fire department's activities and enjoying Kathryn's friendship cake. "It takes forever to make one," said Wilbur. "It just takes 30 days," denied Kathryn who received a copy of the recipe from a neighbor who's own copy was brown with age. "When you get it all done, you've got a gallon jug full," she added. "Add a different fruit every 10 days and you've got to stir it every day," After 30 days there will be enough to make three cakes each of which requires one half cut of starter (the liquid from the gallon jug) leaving eight cups to share with friends. And Kathryn immediately produced a jar containing the required amount of starter along

with a copy of the recipe. Obviously friends include nosy Granger Today writers who invade one's home and ask lots and lots of questions. And thank goodness for that.

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\* Marianne Coffey Morrison, morrisom@verizon.net, wrote the following:

"I have been negligent in sending the website for the area of Ireland that Michael Coffey, my g-grandfather came from when he emigrated to England. It is [www.fethard.com](http://www.fethard.com). It is a really good site to see the town from aerial views, especially the wall that has been there since I believe the 14th century. It was really an amazing feeling to be able to touch the wall and imagine my ancestors living there. I met the Webmaster of the site when I was there as he is also the main genealogist in the area and he was instrumental in researching the families that lived in Fethard. My g-grandfather was born just prior to their record keeping by the town, but he suggested that I check further with the Catholic parishes in the area. It is on a long list of things to do.

I also would like to inform you that I lost two first cousins from my Coffey side of the family. They were twins and the first died one day before their 94th birthday on September 20, 2006. The other cousin died on March 20th, 2007 exactly 6 months to the day as her twin. Their names were Agatha (Shermak) Davis and

Cecila Shermak. Their mother Agnes Coffey was my father's younger sister. I lived next door to Cecila and another sister, Ann for the majority of my life. They were very special and my last link to the Coffey side of my family. Getting back to the town of Fethard and that area of Ireland. If you can imagine a triangle lying on its side then you would be able to think of the 3 towns that contain the history of my Thomas Coffey and Michael Coffey. The first is Cashel, where the famous Rock of Cashel is located. Then we have Fethard about 10 miles away and the 3rd city is Clonmel another 10 miles away. Thomas was known to have come from either Clonmel or Cashel. Michael was from Fethard.

I know that Michael was born in 1816 and immigrated to the Yorkshire, England area some time before 1853 as this is when my grandmother was born in Yorkshire, England. She immigrated to the US in 1871. Her father and brothers followed shortly there after. Her mother had died and the father and children left for the United States. I don't know when Thomas Coffey came over here but my grandfather, Thomas Michael Coffey, was also born in Ireland. Still searching for more info for him. I don't know if this will be of any help to the other "cousins" looking for Coffey background, but anyone interested in the Coffey's from Chicago, IL area, I would be glad to communicate with them."

## 270-year-old Paternity Case Solved

Fred Coffey, fredcoffey@aol.com

I think we may be on the verge of solving a 270-year-old paternity mystery, using modern DNA testing:

FACT: Bob and Joe Coffey have each obtained a 12-marker y-DNA test, and they match each other. They ALSO match this Scott Cleveland at the 12-marker level. Normally such a low-resolution non-surname match would be nearly meaningless, but there is another interesting connection that raises a VERY interesting possibility.

Scott Cleveland's family tree is posted and available on FTDNA, and he is descended from one Alexander Cleveland, who lived in Virginia and who married Mary "Millie" Presley (\*see note at end). This is a family well known to Coffey researchers, since three of Alexander and Millie Cleveland's children married into members of the Edward Coffey family (son John married Elizabeth Coffey, daughter Grace married Edward Jr. Coffey, and daughter Jane may have married Chesley Coffey (if we ever prove Chesley existed).

Further, the above Robert and Joseph are both believed descended from James Coffey, born about 1735, who was the illegitimate son of Edward Coffey's daughter Annister. There is evidence that Annister may have later married a Chenault, and had additional children, but a "Chenault DNA"

test suggests strongly that her son James Coffey was NOT fathered by her later husband. That leaves us wondering who might have been the father of Annister's baby James? The DNA of Bob and Joe does not match others in the Edward Coffey family (obviously, because Annister was a female who couldn't pass on y-DNA).

Now, Alexander Cleveland appears to have had six sons (Alexander Jr., John, William, Benjamin, Jeremiah, and Micajah. Further, James Coffey (Annister's son) named one of HIS sons "Micajah". (For what it's worth, Scott Cleveland is also descended from this Micajah Cleveland.)

CONCLUSION: I think it is VERY likely that the father of Annister's son James Coffey was Micajah Cleveland, based on (1) the close Coffey/Cleveland family relationships, (2) the recurrence of the name Micajah in James Coffey's family, and (3) the 12-marker DNA match!

FOR CONCLUSIVE PROOF: I strongly recommend that either Robert or Joseph Coffey (or both) upgrade their DNA test to 37-markers. If there is a match to Scott Cleveland (who already has a 37-marker test) at that level, then I would say the mystery of "Who was Annister's boyfriend?" is almost certainly SOLVED.

\*Laura Edwards corrects our use of "Milly Presley" as the wife of Alexander Cleveland. In the Abingdon Parish Register, Gloucester Co. VA she is listed as

MARY. The Presley name is only family tradition --- sort of like our John Coffey with a Joliff wife. It has been out there so long that they can't get rid of it.

\* Mr. John Chenault further states; "I went to the Virginia Historical Society last week to trace Anvester Chinault's Merchant's Account, which is the only proof we have that she married Stephen Chenault, Jr. I found that the Book A, which was the one she was recorded in on August 7, 1749, was in the library of William and Mary University. I went there last Thursday, and held the actual book in my hands, written in 1749, the year my 4th great grandfather, William Chenault was born, 249 years ago. I am confident now that William was the son of Stephen Chenault and Anvester, born when she was possibly close to 40 years of age, and when Stephen was possibly 47. The market was run by a man names Ninian Boog for a Liverpool, England firm of Buchanan and Hamilton. She purchased sundry items and brown sugar. She paid for her order with tobacco from Ocupatia Creek in Essex County. The market was in King and Queen County. It was interesting material on the commerce of that day. But this, again, is the only record I have seen that gives proof that Anvester married Stephen, her closest neighbor, after the death of her mother, Ann

Powell Coffey Dulin in 1744. Of course, James Coffey and William Chenault are half-brothers, aren't they? I have a microfilm copy of her page in the Merchant's account. It is very legible."

## COFFEY COUSINS CONVENTIONS

**All the wonderful places that we have gathered in the last 24 years. Betty Coffey of Raleigh NC was the first hostess.**

**1984 - Boone, NC**

**1985 - Nashville, TN**

**1986 - Tulsa, OK**

**1987 - Raleigh, NC**

**1988 - Nashville, IN**

**1989 - Jefferson City, MO**

**1990 - Woodbridge, VA**

**1991 - Boone, NC**

**1992 - San Antonio, TX**

**1993 - Oklahoma City, OK**

**1994 - Richmond, VA**

**1995 - Baton Rouge, LA**

**1996 - Baltimore, MD**

**1997 - Calgary, Ontario, CA**

**1998 - Springfield, OR**

**1999 - Des Moines, IA**

**2000 - Sanford, FL**

**2001 - Vicksburg, MS**

**2002 - Dallas, TX**

**2003 - Berea, KY**

**2004 - Fort Smith, AR**

**2005 - Nashville, TN**

**2006 - Chadron, NE**

**2007 - Dubuque, IA**

**The 2008 Convention in VA will be the 25th anniversary.**



# **25th ANNUAL COFFEY REUNION**

**May 2 - 4, 2008**

**Virginia – Here we come!!**

We have received confirmation of 30 rooms tagged for the date May 2, 2008 to May 5, 2008 at the Days Inn, Raphine, Rockbridge Co., VA.

The rooms set aside are:

Double - non-smoking and smoking

King - non-smoking

Rooms are \$64.95 plus tax.

Reservations have to be made by Apr. 15, 2008.

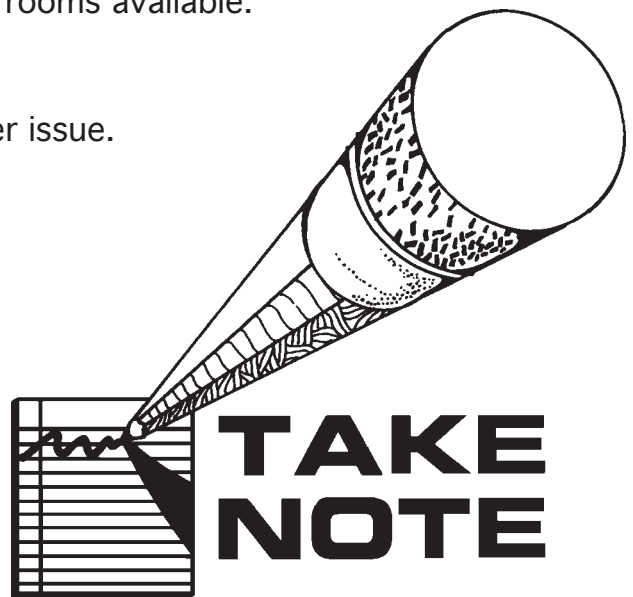
Anyone arriving early or leaving late will be charged the hotel's regular rate for days outside the reunion dates. Check with reservations desk for those costs.

**Telephone 540-377-2604 for reservations and make sure the hotel understands that the reservation is being made for the Coffey Cousins' Reunion.**

It is suggested that anyone planning to attend make reservations early. This is the heart of Coffey country (NC/VA) and we expect a large crowd. The hotel will book more rooms as needed. They only have 80 rooms available.

Plans are being made to visit Coffeytown.

Watch for more information in the December issue.



**INDEX**

Editor's Letter..... 1  
 Survey Response ..... 3  
 New Cousins..... 3  
 Computer News ..... 3  
 Obituaries..... 4  
 Mail Box..... 6  
 New Addresses ..... 6  
 Dead End Roads..... 7  
 Currents in the Stream..... 10  
 Documents Galore ..... 12  
 Thorn Hill before it was Thorn Hill..... 12  
 279 Yr Old Paternity Case Solved..... 15  
 Coffey Cousins Convention 2007..... 17

**CORRECTIONS**

\*Archie Dalton, adalton478@hotmail.com, says; "Ella Mae Dalton Bates was PRECEDED - rather than SURVIVED by Samuel Curtis and Manual Frank Dalton, brothers." Please correct in your Issue 105, page 7.

**BE SURE TO  
 CALL CONVENTION  
 RESERVATIONS IN EARLY.  
 SEE YOU IN VIRGINIA.**