



# COFFEY COUSINS' LEARNINGHOUSE



March 2010  
Issue 116

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

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Cousins,

I don't know about the rest of you, but we have had more than enough of winter. We have so much snow we've run out of room to put it. It will be in the shopping centers and parking lots till April. We're driving through mazes.

It's crunch time for the Convention. We have only a few reservations. We need lots more. Remember, the excursion to Philadelphia is Friday, April 23, to avoid weekend crowds. We have 75 tickets reserved for the tour.

We have a trip planned to Valley Forge on Saturday. We also suggested a car trip to Gettysburg, possibly on Sunday, but we need to know if people are interested in that. You should take time to go to New Castle, about 15 miles away, to see where William Penn really landed, not in Philadelphia.

If anybody wants to bring children to the convention, they can order from the menu for the banquet. The prices for everything else will be the same as adults as they will be counted as an individual.

Don't forget the cut-off date is March 15. After that we will release the second bus if we don't have enough count.

While this will primarily be a touring convention, there will be time to visit and compare notes on family connections. Bring anything you think might be of interest to the other cousins or that they might be able to help with. We would welcome things for the auction. It helps with the next years expenses. Also we need someone to host next year's convention. Is 2011 your year?

*Jean*

**EDITOR'S LETTER**

Dear Cousins;

It's subscription renewal time again. Please check the expiration date on the mailing label on page 18.

I do hope you have reservations for the Coffey Convention. Jean and Wayne Mower have worked hard to get us good prices for our stay and to see the country's first capitol, etc. I always make my reservation early. At 76, I'm always afraid that it could be my last one and I don't want to miss a visit with you. I'm looking for something special to take for the auction.

This isn't a very "pretty" newsletter. I had to do a lot of "spueezing" to get it all in. There were several large stories that needed to get into this issue. I would change fonts, etc to make stories fit on the appropriate pages.

I think we have some good stories this time. We haven't had anything on the Hugh Coffey line for ages and then it was a surprise to get permission to print the Whiteside story, just before publication time. I cried for the Bab's School children and the J.C. Coffey family.

There will be more on the Coffey/Boone connection in the next issue. Janet de la Peña is sending a box of records she has received from the Boone Association on the subject. If anyone is interested in a treasure hunt, I could bring this box to the convention. Let me know.

Hope to see you in Delaware.

*Bonnie Culley*

**COFFEE / GRIFFIN****FAMILY REUNION 2010**

**July 10, 2010 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Coalgate, Oklahoma**

Contacts: Julia Hampton 580-927-5400  
Donna Guinn 580-927-2098

Bring a covered dish, or other food & drink items for a noon meal.

Please bring any old and new family pictures, information and stories you would like to share with the rest of the family.

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From: Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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**NEW NAMES**

Kathryn Goodloe, 202 Lakeside Villa, Diamohead, MS 39525  
 Erin Booke, 2630 Heatherwood Dr, Dallas TX 75228

**ANCESTOR**

Jesse  
 Peter

**NEW COUSINS**

\* Kathryn Goodloe is the granddaughter of Ream's Goodloe. They descend from Jesse Coffey, 1792 - 1835. We hope that Kathryn has agreed to carry on Reams work of the family research. Reams has accomplished a lot on the line of Jesse Coffey and written a documented book on this line. As with most research, there is always room for more. Good luck Kathryn.

\* Erin Booke is the granddaughter of Dr. Carol Coffee and as such, descends from Peter Coffee. Most of us are looking for younger family members who are interested in their lineage and I'm sure Erin is one who has shown an interest. We can always use more information on the Peter Coffee line and hope Erin enjoys doing research. We thank Dr. Coffee for recommending she keep in touch with us.

**DNA PROJECT****THE "SAMUEL" CONECTION**

**By Fred Coffey**

An article by Bonnie Culley in the last CCC Newsletter, "Currents in the Stream", indicated that we were trying to use DNA to determine the paternal ancestry of James Coffey (born about 1735 in Virginia). James is the base born son of Annister, daughter of Edward. And now we know his father was probably "James Samuel"!

After earlier tries, DNA again became a promising tool after we were pointed to a Virginia court order book dated 20 Feb 1738/9 with a record "It is ordered that

the Churchwardens of St. Ann's Parish do bind James Coffy a bastard child to James Samuel as the law directs".

The "James Samuel" referenced would be a man born 14 Jun 1690, died 16 May 1759, married Sarah Boulware on 5 Apr 1714. He was born, lived, married, and died in St. Ann's Parish, Essex County, VA - the same location as the above court record.

We now have in hand y-DNA tests on two descendants of James Coffey, and on one descendant of the brother of the above James Samuel. And this, combined with the court record, proves "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the father of James Coffey was someone from this "Samuel" family.

This is in many ways like the famous "Thomas Jefferson/Sally Heming" case, where DNA proves that some male from the Jefferson family fathered at least one of slave, Sally Heming's children. It could have been any male "Jefferson", but the overwhelming "circumstantial evidence" suspect is Thomas himself.

Likewise, the father of James Coffey could be any "Samuel" male, such as a son or brother of the named James Samuel. But James Samuel himself must definitely be the most likely suspect?

I have been "chasing" James Coffey for quite some time, and have a lot more information on him than can be covered here, including more detailed discussion of the DNA. You're invited to visit at [www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/JamesCoffee.htm](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/JamesCoffee.htm)

# EDWARD COFFEY'S MARK

by Jack Coffee

In the past, some have wondered about the "curious mark" on the will of Edward Coffey. It appears to some as a crude rendering of the letter "M" and some have speculated that it stood for Moseley.

I was reading some books on Google this morning when I ran across the The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine, Vol. LXXXIV New Series: Vol: LXII, May to October, 1912, The Century Co., New York, Hodder & Stoughton, London in which the editors included an article concerning the use of marks as signatures. The article included an extract of signatures dating back to 1656 in Essex Co., VA.

Andrew  Harrison	Charles  Gresham	Ephraim  Maguffey
Thomas <sup>sign</sup>  Bartlett	John  Webb	Ruth  Loyde
Henry Brown  Brown	Margret Booker  Booker	John  Garnett
Casandrey Goulding  Goulding	Elinor Parker  Parker	John <sup>his</sup>  Ball
Matthew  Collins	Thos  Tinsley	Arthur  Hodges
Mary  Saks	Jesse  Disto	Ann  Hodges
Wm. Roberts  Roberts	Carroll  Dum	Eliza  Sty
Judith Dyke  Dyke	Ellenor  Woody	<b>Edward Coffey</b> 
William Taylor  Taylor	George Pearson  Pearson	Martin  Rowland

The article concludes that the symbols were actually the signature of the person and, that a "sign manual" existed to help clerks, etc. identify the signer. It also concludes, as you will read below, that the "X" was uncommon, but when used was generally stylized in some manner.

The text accompanying the chart is as follows:

"In these days it seems so natural for everybody to read and write that we are disposed to

smile when we look over the records of our older States and find that our colonial forefathers and foremothers could not, for the most part, even write their own names. If the requirements of the law necessitated a signature at any time, the writing of the name was generally left to the county clerk, who spelled it after a fashion of his own, and the signer, with no fear of the schoolmaster before his eyes, boldly and unabashed added his mark.

Naturally, a person's mark was a matter of importance in those days, when nearly everybody used one, and a surprising variety of characters were employed for the purpose, as will be seen by reference to the examples here given. These were all copied from the records of Essex County, Virginia, which date back to the year 1656, a period not much further removed from the days of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith than we are to-day from the events of the great Civil War. Among them will be found some of the most aristocratic names in old Virginia,—Ball, Talbot, Gresham, Garnett, &c.,—good old family stocks that have 'made their mark' in more ways than one.

The simple cross mark (X) was comparatively rare, and, when used, was often embellished with flourishes and other variations. Sarah Crowdes and John Webb, for instance, convert theirs into the well-known religious emblem displayed on the pyx-cloth in Roman Catholic and Episcopal churches. Ann Smith turns one leg of hers into a drumstick; William Taylor adorns his with a knob at each end; Martin Rowland makes his into something like a whirligig. Sometimes there is a rude attempt at a monogram, as in the case of Andrew Harrison, Thomas Bartlett, Robert Thomas, William Hunt, and Henry Powell. Dorothy Henry has a wonderful H, with 'rings on its fingers and bells on its toes,' and Henry Brown, a broad, fat one. George Pearson has a double initial, but the G has somehow managed to get on its head, and land on the wrong side of the P, as if it had turned a somersault clear over its companion. Nobody seems to have been at all concerned about which way the letters faced, and no doubt they had just as much meaning for the signers one way as another. Why 'Margrett' Booker and Carroll Dum should choose A for their signature, or Thomas Tinsley a C, Ane Gibbins a T, Charles Gresham a figure 8, Mary Rice a coil of rope, and Elinor Parker a Semitic letter, must be left for the ingenuity of the reader to determine. There is no uniformity in placing the mark. Sometimes it is accompanied by the explanatory words, 'his mark' or 'her mark,' or by the single word 'sign,' in plain English; sometimes it is dignified with the more ambitious Latin affix, 'signum,' as if it

felt quite proud of itself: but more often it is set down without any ado, as if too much a matter of course to call for note or comment.

The frequency with which the 'sign manual' appears in the old records proves that it was no disgrace in those days for a man not to know how to write, and as for the "females," I suspect the disgrace would have counted the other way."

## OBITUARIES

### JAMES F. COFFEY

James F. Coffey, 77, Jamestown, KY died Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009 at his home. He was born April 9, 1932 to the late Green M and Alice (Brown) Coffey.

Mr. Coffey is survived y his wife, Olga Semen Coffey; three daughters, Kin Stairs, Leo, IN, Cathy Bryan, Albany, IN and Tracy Sargent, Kokomo, IN; three step daughters, Mary Lou Cooper, Fishers, IN; Tonya Guinn, Cary, NC and Hollie Miller, Jamestown; three sisters, Faye Starbuck, Greenwood, IN; Sand Hammond, Fishers, IN and Chena Crider, Elizabethtown, IN; eight grandchildren; eight step grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Shirley Herwche. Mr. Coffey was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

(Faye Starbuck requested that we run a corrected obituary for her brother)

### RODNEY D. GLASSCOCK

Rodney D. Glasscock, 94 of Amarillo died Jan. 21, 2010. Mr. Glasscock was born Feb. 24, 1915 in Ceda Vale, KS to Leslie G. and Vera Bobbitt Glasscock. He graduated from Snyder High School, Cico Junior College, Phillips University and Brite Divinity School. He married Eileen Coble on March 14, 1944 in Amarillo.

Mr. Glasscock pastored in Texas, Washington and Kansas. He served as Director of Religious Education for the Rocky Mountain Area of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. He was also Elder Emeritus of the First Christian Church in Amarillo.

He was preceded in death by his father, mother, stepfather, J. Otis Temple and a grandson R. David Glascock. He is survived by his wife Eileen; two sons, Richard D. Glasscock and wife Debi J. of Paducah, KY and Robert E. Glasscock of Lubbock; a sister Geneva B. Randolph of Anadarko, OK.

Private burial will be at Llano Cemetery.

(Info Richard Glascock)

ORVILLE JAMES "JAMIE" COFFEY  
Orville James "Jamie" Coffey, 63 years old, passed from this life on Jan. 5, 2010, at the Rest Haven Care Center, Tulsa, OK. Jamie was born to Orville and Jennie Coffey on Aug. 15, 1946 in Tulsa. He graduated Daniel Webster High School and was a member of the Epworth United Methodist Church. He retired from the Department of Human Services.

Jamie was preceded in death by his parents, and two sisters, Doris Jean Coffey and Mary Ruth Coffey. He is survived by; two sisters, Sharon Busch and husband Bill of Ketchum, Phyllis Brown of Tulsa; nephew, Will Busch of Sand Springs; niece, Bonnie Pruett of Nowata, Vanessa Brown of Tulsa.

(Info; Tulsa Words 01/07/2010 & Bennie Loftin)

#### JON NORMAN COFFEE

Jon Norman Coffee passed away on November 19, 2009, at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona, after a long battle with cancer. Jon was born in 1936 in Corsicana, Texas, and is preceded in death by his parents, Judge Norman Coffee and Ruby Hall Coffee, and brother, David Coffee. He was raised in the Texas Panhandle town of Borger, Texas, went on to attend Kemper

Military School, Boonville, MO and proudly served in the United States Army. Jon moved to Austin to attend the University of Texas and received his BBA in 1957 and then his law degree in 1960 from the UT School of Law. He began his legal career at the Texas General Land Office and subsequently opened an office in downtown Austin where he began his law practice. Long considered by his peers, clients and the judiciary as one of the premier family law attorneys in America, in 2009 Jon Coffee was honored as the first and only attorney admitted to the Austin Bar Association Family Law Section's Hall of Fame. Jon was among the first lawyers in the State of Texas to become a Certified Specialist in Family Law, was listed in Best Lawyers In America and had a Texas-sized personality and stature that dominated courtrooms throughout Central Texas for more than 30 years. He served in many leadership positions during his legal career, including serving as President of the Travis County Bar Association, the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, the Family Law Section of the Travis County Bar Association, Director of the State Bar of Texas and Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Judith Pelham; and his five children, son Gordon Coffee, wife Jan; son Brian Coffee, wife Sheri of Birmingham, Alabama; daughter Leslie Coffee Sharrock, husband Greg of Plano, Texas; daughter Marla Coffee of Austin. He is also survived by 3 step-children, Rachel Pelham Welch, Molly Pelham, Edward Pelham and their families. (Published in Austin American-Statesman on November 22, 2009) (Kathy & Charles Loeffler, celoeffler@hotmail.com thru Jack Coffee jack.coffee@gmail.com)

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**Dead End Roads**

\* Carol Haas, ch4814@gmail.com, says that she has a note that says in part that Franklin's son John A. (Albert?) married Elizabeth Popplewell in Adair Co., KY. Could that Elizabeth be sister to Canzada who was the dau of John F. and Susan Harris Popplewell? Canzada married Walton Coffey, a son of Andrew and Sally Bernard Coffey.

According to what I (Carol) have, they are second cousins.

Elizabeth is the daughter of James Denton Popplewell and Ascenith Neat. James is the son of Sauvrin (Soverign) Popplewell and Nancy Denton. Sauvrin is the son of Isaac Popplewell who was the first Popplewell in Adair Co. Isaac was married to Elizabeth Flynt.

Casandra "Cazandy" Popplewell, d/o John F and Susanna Harris Popplewell. John F is son of Simco Popplewell and his wife Sinthia Mason. Simco is s/o Isaac Popplewell, brother to Sauvrin mentioned above.

Carol also says, "The following may be already well known, but thought I'd include it just in case someone is interested":

Salathiel Coffey married Mary Ann Ballew in Russell Co. John F. Popplewell was a witness - or perhaps the minister.

Salathiel was twice married. His first wife was Nancy Dunbar and his second is commonly believed to be Mary Ann Ballew. Mary Ann was a McFarland who married Houston R. Ballew in Wayne Co. I'm not certain what happened to Houston.

I don't know if it is the same Houston R Ballew, but there is a death record in the RCK vital statistics. He died 16 Jan 1853,

of pneumonia, in Russell Co, age 45. He was married. It has one parent listed for him: Zarah Coffey. Zarah sounds familiar, but I don't have her(?) in my database. Do you know who she(?) is?

John William Coffey married Jincey Towler/Fowler in Wayne Co. in 1842. S. Popplewell was minister. I don't have a John William in my files born early enough to have married in 1842.

John Cleveland Coffey married Martha J. Hopper in Russell Co. John was a son of John A. and Eliz. Popplewell Coffey and brother to Margaret Coffey who married a Stephens.

Margaret married Lorenzo Dow Stephens, son of Wesley (or Beluia? on dc) Stephens and Nancy Whittle. I have Stephens in my tree, but I don't know where this guy belongs.

\* Beth Watson says; "I am a direct descendant of Patrick Coffey, who was born circa 1826 in County Westmeath, Ireland. He immigrated to the United States in July 1851, settling in SW Wisconsin. He married Margaret Murtha on July 11, 1853 in Shullsburg. They lived in Waldwick Township, Iowa County, WI. Patrick and Margaret had nine children: James, Catherine, Michael, John, Andrew, Margaret, Thomas, Rose and Mary (the latter two died in infancy).

Patrick died in 1873 at the approximate age of 46. No death records are on file with the church or county. Margaret lost her daughter Margaret 6 years later to diphtheria and Catherine 10

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March

years after Patrick's death. Margaret died in 1911 at the age of 79. Her obituary, along with her son Michael's in 1920, links the family to a Michael Coffey's family in Davenport, Iowa. Michael was married to Ann Lanagan and had 11 children. I believe Michael and Patrick were brothers. They may have had two brothers, James and John. However, I have not confirmed their existence, or if they also immigrated to the U.S.

Michael and Patrick were possibly from Collinstown, Westmeath. I am attempting to locate a document noting their hometown in Ireland and their parents' names so that I may confirm their birth location and trace the family forward.

I am also trying to determine if Michael and Patrick were related to John Coffey's family from Muscatine, just south of Davenport. If anyone knows what county in Ireland this family came from I'd love to know.

Any assistance with my research would be greatly appreciated! I can be reached at bethwatson@wi.rr.com.

\* Mike Powter, mikepowter@gmail.com, says, "I stumbled across the Coffey cousins website today. My mother's, mother's, father was a Coffey and his Dad came to Australia from County Westmeath in Ireland sometime around the mid 19th century.

Do you have many Australian connections with the Group?

2005

\* I, Bonnie Culley, want to offer my thought on the life of Edward Coffey and would like to hear from you on the subject.

First on Jan 6, 1699 Ed Coffe was listed in William Mosley's will leaving him a heifer, 2 years old. Now why would he leave a single servant a milk cow? Could Ann be expecting or already have a child? Mosley had lost his wife fairly recently as he left his wife's clothes to the lady who had cared for her when she was ill. I think Edward had been allowed to marry by a master who needed a woman in the house. Mr. Mosley had 3 children. (If you have Marvin's book you need to change the name of Mosley from Edward to William. I have the will and Marvin and I determined that he made a mistake with this first name.)

On March 10, 1700 Ann is listed in her father's will as Ann Coffey so we know she was married prior to this. Many use this year as her marriage date but I think it was much earlier than that. Usually indentured servants did not marry until their term of service had expired, but we know that Edward Coffey's service had not expired yet. His court date to release him from indenture would not come up for another 6 months.

On September 10, 1700, Edward Coffey was granted his freedom, corn and clothes. Now as this was the expiration date of his indenture, he was due some compensation, probably enough money/tobacco to get a start.

As most indentures were for 7 to 9 years at that period, I would say that he came on a ship from England or Ireland in 1691 to 1693. We need to see what ships and ports that the Mosleys imported other indentured servants into. What court records are there for their other indentured servants? Probably they were all treated nearly alike and are any of them the peers of Ed Coffe?



\* We have been looking for church records in the wrong place. I have found some information on the St. Ann Parish, Essex Co. VA that might make a difference in why we are not finding records for the Edward Coffey family. This information came from Ancestry.com. The page is titled Church Parishes of Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties (VA).

Quote: The established Church in Colonial Virginia was the Church of England. As in England, parishes were local units of Ecclastical and community organization. The Virginia General Assembly, through legislation, created parishes and defined their boundaries. As the population of Colonial Virginia grew, new parishes were formed and boundary lines changed.

#### Old Rappahannock Co.

1656 – 1661 Farnham Parish

1661 – 1677 Franham Parish ----- West Sittenburne

1677 – 1683 North Farnham- South Farnham – West Sittenburne

1683 – 1692 N.Franham – S. Farnham – Sittenburne – St Mary's West  
Essex Co. 1692 to present

1692 – 1704 S. Farnham – Sittenburne – St. Mary's West

1704 – Present S. Farnham (Lower Parish) – St Ann's (Upper Parish)

Notes: St. Anns was created in 1704 from Sittenburne & the portion retaining the name of Sittenburne fell into Richmond Co. VA.

Has anyone ever checked for records in the Sittenburne Parish for marriage, baptism or death records for the Coffeys? Do they still exist. If you have any information on this please let me – Bonnie Culley, know.

### **CURRENTS IN THE STREAM**

\* Spencer Coffey , 8220 S. Russell Rd., Oak Grove, MO 64075-6217, is offering to share his genealogy and photograph collection on CDs. Here is what Spencer has to say:

“Any descendants of Robert Exum Coffey [1858-1939], of Boone Co., Arkansas and Alberta Province, Canada, a son of Col. J. N. Coffey, who would like a CD photo album of Robert Exum and his family, to send me six blank CD discs and a self-addressed stamped envelope suitable for mailing them back. No charge, the offer is free. If the viewer enjoys the CD albums, that's my fee – paid in full. (Canadian cousins please note: unless you can manage to stick U.S.A. postage stamps on your return envelope, I suppose you will have to use International Reply Stamps.)”  
(I, Bonnie Culley, have viewed some of

these and they are really interesting. Wish we had something like this for my family.)Spencer's email is: elzorroblando@juno.com

\* Theresa Foss, t\_l\_foss@yahoo.com, says that she has a copy of James Coffey's pay voucher she found at the Historical Society & Museum in Monticello, Wayne County, KY. Juanita Coffey wife of Bennie Coffey works there. That is where Theresa found military records for Reuben Coffey born in 1759 in the Revolutionary War. We want to thank Theresa for the hint. It seems that she has also found a lot of Civil War records there as well.

### **CORRECTIONS**

Please correct the obituary in Issue 15, page5, for Arthur Floyd Coffee. His mother's last name was Bannan, not Banner. From jean Mower, jcmower@verizon.net

**DOCUMENTS GALORE**

\* Ethel Taylor wrote the following story. It is so well written that I don't dare change or shorten anything. I received it in time for the Dec. issue but it's too sad to use at Christmas. I learned of this story from K Coffee, krcoffee@wcsonline.net

**BABBS SWITCH SCHOOL**

The Babbs Switch School was freshly painted, with turpentine used for paint thinner, before the Christmas program, December 24, 1924. Repairs had been made to the building following a windstorm in May, 1922 including heavy wire netting over all the windows to prevent vandalism and window breakage. The screens were bolted securely with heavy bolts to the sills.

The night was cold and a light snow had fallen. Some residents had to work late in Hobart with the Christmas Eve rush and were disappointed that they were unable to attend the Christmas program at the school. Mrs. Florence Terry Hill, teacher, had taken a leading roll in planning the evening's festivities. Dowell Bolding was to play Santa Claus.

About 200 men, women and children crowded into the 26' x 36' building, standing against the walls and in the aisles. The Christmas tree and program were on the east side, with the main door on the west side. A small door near the cistern was known only to a few.

The program had been presented and Santa was presenting the gifts from the glistening tree with lighted candles; presents were all around the tree with some on it. As Santa distributed the gifts he reached to take a gift from the tree, he pulled the limb down, took the gift off which released the limb. It swung back, knocking a candle against the cotton and

tinsel decorations, which caught fire and spread to the tree. Willing hands rushed forward in the effort to smother the blaze.

With the first blaze the people moved restlessly and some started for the only door. The tree was turned over in the effort to extinguish the fire, but served to spread the fire and wild excitement and terror spread. In two minutes the entire room was on fire. In efforts to escape, people broke the windows, but the heavy wire would not give. The door was jammed with people trying to get out; many were trampled to death before the flames reached them. Spectators who witnessed the inferno said whole families died wrapped in each other's arms.

Those lined against the north wall and to the right of the door, gained the outside because the door had opened inward. People from other parts of the building only succeeded to jam the door so that it opened only part way. Everyone was terrified, parents screaming for their children inside and outside the building. Only a portion of one screen wire was torn away and one man escaped, Clyde Hudson pulled him through, but did not know who he was.

L.F. Edens was one of the last persons to leave the building alive, after helping many people out and in the process was badly burned himself. Another person pulling people out the door was Andrew Jackson. Lillie Biggers Braun crawled out dragging her doll with her, leaving it on the step of the school. Lillie went back for the doll, but her older sister, Bessie recovered it for her. The doll had lost one of its arms in the escape. Max and Hattie Cizek, children who were badly burned in escaping, ran 2 ¼ miles to their

home. Many other heroic men and women worked selflessly and performed many brave deeds through the night in efforts to save lives.

Car radiators had been drained to keep them from freezing while their owners were at the program. When those who were able to drive started for Hobart to get help, many forgot to put water in the radiators, causing a delay when the motors got hot and stops had to be made at homes along the road to get water. When the first auto load of injured reached Hobart, a general call for aid was sounded and cars rushed from Hobart to the school. In 45 minutes all the injured were returned to Hobart and had received emergency treatment. Before midnight, complete aid had been rendered to all. Every physician in Hobart responded to the call and worked all night. The stores were opened and cots and bedding were placed in the hospitals to take care of the 37 brought there. Mrs. Daisy Rodgers was the telephone operator in Hobart at the time, serving at her station, taking calls and placing calls all over the state and the nation many hours.

Arrangements were made with the Rock Island Railroad to send a special car to Hobart to take the injured to University Hospital in Oklahoma City, staffed with nurses. Only one person rode the car back to Oklahoma City, a young Indian boy, Max Cizek. Meanwhile, horror-stricken families and rescue workers still beat through the charred timbers of the school in search of bodies of missing persons. The Miles Sanitarium and the Physicians and Surgeons Hospital in Hobart were filled to capacity. More than half of the dead were children; several Babbs Switch families were wiped out completely. T. C. Coffey died with his wife and four children

huddled in his arms.

Some of the heroic persons who were at the scene were Tom Goforth, Dow Johnson, Lewis Edens, Claude Bolding, Johnnie Harris, Andrew Jackson, J. Reville, a negro man by the name of Charlie, John Goforth, Clyde Hudson and several unknown others. Several survivors remember Tom Goforth standing up when the fire started and urging everyone to be calm, that everyone was going to be alright. His body was found at almost the same spot where he stood. Survivors could not remember all the nightmare things that happened in the doomed school house during minutes that seemed like hours. One couple who were to be married, Vesta Jackson and Aubrey Coffee, both died in the fire.

Volunteer workers combed the ruins all night in bitter cold until the last body was recovered. The townspeople held a mass meeting on Christmas Day, which was Thursday, and the community quickly organized itself to meet the emergency. Volunteers dug the graves in the frozen ground. Grief stricken survivors filed past the pitiful collection of human remains at the Gish Funeral Home, which was then in City Hall. The victims were identified by the jewelry they wore, dentures and teeth.

Money came from all over the country since news of the fire was carried in all national newspapers, along with messages of sympathy. Before the finance committee had finished its work, it had accepted \$12,803.00; the last \$1,600 bought the big red granite marker in the cemetery. Much of the money paid funeral and doctor bills.

Thirty two people lost their lives in the fire and four more died within a few days. Several were not expected to live, but the

total death as a result of the fire stood at 36. Twenty persons were buried in the community grave where the large granite marker stands; others were buried in their family's plots.

(For more information on this story visit: <http://rebelcherokee.html>)

\* Doug Chojecki, [dkojak@hotmail.com](mailto:dkojak@hotmail.com), was introduced to us by Janet de la Peña. This is a Coffey line as Elizabeth Coffey married to Robert Whitesides. She is the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Cleveland) Coffey. Doug is letting us publish a paper he wrote on the family history. His wife's GGGGG-grandfather.

### WHITESIDE FAMILY

Our branch of the Whiteside family is designated family 9000 in the genealogical documentation of Dr. Don Whitesides. This branch begins with the birth of William Whiteside, 1710 in Ireland. William and an older brother, Thomas, immigrated to America and in 1740 William married Elizabeth Stockton in Virginia. They settled near the South fork of Mechums River next to a creek now known as Whitesides Creek. Elizabeth gave birth to 13 children over the next 19 years, and lived into her 80th year. William served in the Albemarle County Militia and was a participant in the French and Indian War as a member of Capt. James Neville's Company. As the family grew, so did the desire for more land, and as a result the family migrated to North Carolina and settled in Tyron County.

Son, Robert Whiteside, and his wife, Elizabeth Coffey, were the first to move away from the new family enclave - to Wilkes County, in Northwestern North Carolina. During the Revolutionary War the Whitesides were strong supporters

of the independence movement. William and his oldest son, Davis, signed the Tyron Resolution of Independence, which actually predated the Declaration of Independence. William died in 1777. In 1780 Col. Patrick Ferguson was sent by the British to show force in the Western Carolinas, ultimately resulting in the battle of King's Mountain, his defeat and a turning point for the War in the Southern Colonies. The battle of King's Mountain was fought October 7, 1780, and at least seven of the Whitesides brothers participated. Family histories site Robert as a soldier serving under his wife's Uncle, Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, in the Regiment known as the Wilkes County Bulldogs, and according to DAR records Robert was a private. Also joining in the battle was Major Robert Singleton, future father-in-law of William Whiteside (b 1773) -Traci's (Doug's wife) ancestor. During the fight Davis was wounded, and he died a few days later from his injuries. James Coffey, father of Elizabeth, is also listed as a Patriot. In 1788, Robert and Elizabeth Whiteside resettled in Wayne County, Kentucky. With them were their 5 sons and daughter: James, Polly, William, Jonathan, Joel and Lewis. Many of William's (b 1710) other children and their families migrated to settle Southern Illinois, near St. Louis. William Whiteside (b 1773) married Lavina Singleton in Lincoln County, Kentucky on March 8, 1802. A testament to their families migrating together from North Carolina is Phillip Singleton signing as a witness to the marriage. Lavina's brothers, Phillip and George Washington Singleton, also joined Austin's colony (in TX) as part of the original 300 families. James and William Whiteside joined Stephen

F Austin's colony by 1824, along with two of Jonathan's sons, Boland and Henry. "Boland" is referred to in family records as "Bolen", but in the original Texas Land grant is referred to as "Bowlin" and signs as "Boland". Boland and Henry did not remain in Texas. In 1850 Boland was in Spadra, Arkansas and recorded as William B Whiteside (ref. Fed. Census). He later returned to Chattanooga, Tennessee where he lived until 1875. Robert Henry Whiteside migrated to Kansas by 1852, raised a family with his second wife and died there in 1889.

In Texas, the Whitesides served the Colony and the Republic of Texas. James held various official positions in the Colony, lived the remainder of his life in Texas and died in Montgomery County in 1848. Both Elisha (son of William) and John Tilford (son of James) are listed as participants in the battle of San Jacinto. George Washington

Whiteside was in the battle of Austin, the Sommerville campaign, and information places him in Bexar in Dec 1835 and San Jacinto. Unfortunately, William and Lavina Whiteside died shortly after receiving their Land Grant from Stephen F Austin, as did their oldest and youngest children. Boland's full name was William Bolen Whiteside, or also William B Whiteside, thus references to William B Whiteside in colony records after 1824 likely were to him. Although the Old 300 list compiled by Lester G. Bugbee in 1893 lists our ancestor as William B Whiteside, no record has been found that names him other than William Whiteside(s). The confusion appears to originate from the 1829-1830 colonial records referencing William B Whiteside.

If you'd like Doug can put you in touch with the Whiteside family ([www.whitesideancestry.org](http://www.whitesideancestry.org) <<http://www.whitesideancestry.org>>)

## HUGH COFFEY

We have a new cousin, Richard Coffey, [richard\\_coffey@hotmail.com](mailto:richard_coffey@hotmail.com), who is working on the Hugh Coffey line. It has been a long time since we have had something to print on this line and am pleased to print the following: Richard says, "So, despite the uncertainties, here's my first try at a "unified" line of descent for the three of us. (Richard, Jeff and Spencer Coffey) I'm showing the lines of descent vertically, with our oldest known common ancestor at the top, and our lines diverging at the 4th generation, with both Jeff Coffey and Spencer Coffey descended from John, while I'm descended from his brother Hugh M."

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Hugh ~1700 (Ireland)                    |   |
| 2. | John ~1730 (VA)                         |   |
| 3. | Hugh 1750 (VA)                          |   |
| 4. | John 1775 (VA)                          | Hugh M. 1784 (SC)                           |
| 5. | William G. 1797 (SC)                    | Jonathan N. 1819 (TN) Andrew B. 1818 (SC)   |
| 6. | James Jefferson 1827 (TN)               | Robert Exum 1858 (AR) Andrew Hugh 1856 (MS) |
| 7. | John Calvin 1854 (TN)                   | Carl Earnest James Andrew 1887 (MS)         |
| 8. | Thomas Jefferson 1880 (TX)              | Joseph Lee 1923 (MS)                        |
| 9. | Thomas Jefferson, Jr. 1921 (TX) Spencer | Richard Lee 1954 (Japan)                    |

Lastly, I've enjoyed sharing the information I have about our ancestry, and I hope you have too. Though our lines of descent are only probable at best, our DNA matches prove that we are cousins after all. (Richard is a nephew of Sarah Holland an early researcher of the Hugh Coffey line and one of our very

early Coffey cousins.)

The number before a name refers to the generation on the chart.

1. Hugh Coffey

Born ~1700 Ireland

Died ~1766 Cowpasture River, Augusta County, Virginia

Burial ~1766 Augusta County, VA

A Hugh Coffey appears in the Northcumberland Co., VA records in 1705 but is probably not this same Hugh.

1725 - Hugh supposedly came to America from Ireland. He supposedly settled around Harpers Ferry (now in West Virginia) before moving to Augusta Co., VA.

1744 - Augusta Co., VA. Received a land grant.

1750, November 3 - Augusta Co., VA. Received 220 acres in "Cowpasture". His son John administered his estate and sold the land in 1767. From "James Bluford Coffey: His Ancestors and Descendants in America" Vol. II: Ancestors, by Marvin D. Coffey. Page 104.

2. John Coffey (1730) and Susannah Watson, had 7 children. The sons are Henry, Hugh, John, Nathaniel, and Jonathan.

3. Henry Coffey, Born 1748 in Virginia

Married to Mary

He was a Revolutionary War captain in Sumpter's Brigade.

3. Hugh Coffey (son of John 1730)

Born May 13, 1750 in Harper's Ferry, Virginia

Died April 26, 1807 in Lancaster County, South Carolina

Burial in Six-Mile Graveyard, Lancaster County, South Carolina

Married to Agnes Montgomery

The National D.A.R. Magazine, Vol. 43, Dec. issue, page 725 lists Revolutionary soldiers of South Carolina as Follows: Hugh Coffey under Captain Henry Coffey of Colonel Hampton's Regiment at Blackstock. He was buried with his wife at the old Six-Mile Church Graveyard (Source-"A Reed Family in America" by Francis Forrest Reed.[caskeyed1.FTW])

He was a farmer and a soldier of the Rev. War. He and his family moved to Lancaster when he was about 4 (1754). The National D.A.R. Magazine, Vol. 43, December issue, page 725 lists Hugh as "Hugh Coffey under Captain Henry Coffey of Colonel Hampton's Regiment at Blackstock." May have been the Hugh Coffey required to serve on a jury in Kershaw Co., SC 17 Nov. 1794.

1784 March - Craven Co., NC. "S.C. Camden Dist., John Coffey of Craven County, planter, to Hugh Coffey of same, 100 A in ye Waxhaw Settlement, Craven Co., adj. Geo. Douglass, William Davis, granted to John Coffey, 12 April 1768... \_\_ March 1784, John Coffey, Susanah Coffey (Seal), Wit: Alexander Montgomery, Hugh Coffey Junior." Deed Books "C & E" pages 89-90.

1793, July 16 - Lancaster Co., SC. "John Coffey of Lancaster Co., to Hugh Coffey, for 10 pounds sterling... 150 A granted to James Walker 22 Sept 1769 in the Waxhaw Settlement adj. James Walker, George Walker... John Coffey (LS), Susannah Coffey (O) (LS), Wit: Hercules Huey, James McAteer. Prov. ..." Deed Book "B" page 332. Page 65 in book out of which it was copied.

1795 January 1 - Lancaster Co., SC. In Deed Book "B" page 287 there is a sale of land. The deed traces the history of its owners. Here is the deed: "John Shepherd in Lancaster Co., yeoman, to John McMurray couper, of same, for 21 pounds sterling, 139 A on waters of Camp Creek adj. John Hood, Grace Taylor, granted from NC to James Larramore, 26 March 1755, by power of attorney to William Davis did sell to Hugh Coffey decd, which Hugh Coffey made over to his son John, and John to Henry Coffey, and Henry Coffey to James Haggins and James Haggins to Thomas Wailes, and by Wailes to sd. John Shepherd... 1 Jan 1795. John Shepherd (J) (Seal), Wit: James Craig, Hugh Coffey. Prov. 12 Sept 1795, by James Craig, before John Craig, J.P."

1804, March 11 - Lancaster Co., SC. "John Coffey of the district of Lancaster set free a mulatto

wench Tenner aged about 40, and Milly aged about 10... 11 March 1804. John Coffey (Seal) Wit: Wm Robinson, Hugh Coffey, Hercules Huey. Proved by William Robertson, 24 March 1804. We certify that Teena 40 years about 4' 8" high, guinea born, and Millie about 9 years old, mixed blood, country born, all of good character, 26 March 1804: John Montgomery, Wm Robinson, Hercules Huey, William Taylor, John Johnson." Deed Book "F" page 199-200. Page 149 out of book where copied. I assume that this John here is the son of John, son of Hugh.

1812, February 28 - Lancaster Co., SC. "Margary Montgomery of Lancaster Dist., sets free and emancipates mulatto girl Rinch about 19 years of age, adjudged by a J.Q. & five freeholders according to an act of assembly... 28 Feb 1812. Margary Montgomery (X).

Wit: Robert Nelson, Thomas Nelson, Hugh Coffey. Proved by Thomas Nelson, 28 Feb 1812.

We certify upon the examination of oath of Margary Montgomery, owner of a negro slave Rinah, a mulatto, country born, about 19 yeas of age 5' 4" or 5" high, 28 Feb 1812, that she is of good character and capable of gaining a livelyhood by honest means... John Montgomery, J.Q., Thos Nelson, Hugh Coffey, William Nelson, Robert Craig, Robert Nelson Jr." Deed book "G" page 344-345. Page 209 from the book where this came.

### 3. John Coffee

Born 1752 in Virginia

Died 1810 in Maury County, Tennessee

He fought in the Revolutionary War. May have had son Hugh born April 9, 1784 in South Carolina who sometime after 1827 settled in Mississippi.

### 3. Nathaniel Coffee

Born 1754 in South Carolina

He fought in the Revolutionary War in a South Carolina militia.

### 3. Jonathan Coffee

Born ~1760 in Lancaster County, South Carolina

He fought in the Revolutionary War.

3. Hugh Coffee 1750 and Agnes Montgomery, had seven children. The five sons are Hugh (jr), John, Hugh M., Henry, and Alexander.

### 4. Hugh Coffee (jr.)

Born ~1770 in Lancaster County, South Carolina

Married Margaret Moore (~1770 - aft. 1835) Mecklenburg County, N.C, m. in 1793

Died aft. 1835 in Maury County, TN

Burial aft. 1835 in Maury County, TN

### 4. John Coffee son of Hugh 1750

Born 1775 in Harper's Ferry, Virginia

Married Ester Givens (1775-1851)

Died 1816 in Maury County, Tennessee

Burial 1816 in Maury County, Tennessee

His first son was William G. Coffey (1797-1897), who is in (Thomas) Jeff's line of descent.

### 4. Hugh M. Coffee

Born Apr-09-1784 in Lancaster County, South Carolina

Married Margaret Walker (1789-1854) bef. 1807

Died May-07-1861 in Lafayette County, Mississippi

Hugh Coffee and his family left Mecklenburg, North Carolina in 1829 with their seven surviving children because of bad crop years. They made crops in South Carolina, Georgia, and then Alabama, where they homesteaded around Talladega, making a crop in 1830 and 1831. Two more children were born in Perry County, Alabama.

Hugh and Margaret, along with their children and some neighbor families, came to the Mississippi

Territory in 1836, after the land was opened to settlement by the Indian treaty at Pontatoc. They settled on land near the Tallahatchie River, not far from Etta (Rocky Ford), Lafayette County, Mississippi. (References Sara Coffey Holland, Elizabeth Coffey Gladney, and Walker Coffey)

## ANOTHER HUGH COFFEY DESCENDENT

By Thomas Jefferson (Jeff ) Coffey

Jeff Coffey sent us his lineage to add to the Hugh Coffey story. He says:

James Jefferson Coffey was my Great Grandfather - born 1 Jan 1827 (Maury County, Tenn), died 16 Feb 1895 (Navarro County, TX). I seem to be missing date of marriage to Elizabeth Matthews. They are both buried in the Matthew family cemetery in unmarked graves in Springhill, Navarro County, Texas. Near Dawson, Texas.

James J.'s father was William G. Coffey (believe G stands for Givens) who was born in Lancaster County, South Carolina in 1798. He moved with his mother Esther Givens Coffey, sister Nancy Agnes Coffey Caskey, brothers Hugh Wiley and Samuel to Maury County, Tenn.

Ester Givens was married to John ? Coffey. John was apparently deceased when they moved to Tenn in early 1800s. Believe John was son of Hugh Coffey who was married to Agnes Montgomery. Hugh was son of John (1730 Virginia) who was married to Susannah Watson. John was son of immigrant Hugh Coffey who had land grant in Virginia. (I think I have a copy)

I am descended from James Jefferson's fifth (of 12) child John Calvin - b 13 April 1854, d 2 April 1911. My father was Thomas Jefferson Coffey b 31 Aug 1880 in Navarro County, TX, d San Antonio, Texas Sept 1974.

There is a story about William G. Coffey's marriage. You will find records that say Elizabeth Bondham. True fact is her last name was Bradshaw. I have a copy of the marriage bond.

There is more to be told, but right now has to be from my memory since I moved several years ago and don't really know where some of those notes and records are. I do have the marriage bond - oh - and I have a photograph of James Jefferson!

## COMPUTER NEWS

COFFEY COUSINS web site, <http://www.thecoffeycousins.org/coffeecousins.html>.

DNA web site: [www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA)

COFFEY DNA PROJECT: [www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA)

EDWARD & ANN (Powell) COFFEY - CD for \$10.00. Jack Coffee, 308 Summer Ridge Loop, Sunset, LA70584. This is all of the descendants that Jack Coffee has found, books & web, for Edward Coffey.

\* Jack Coffee, [jack.coffee@gmail.com](mailto:jack.coffee@gmail.com), is still working on the Edward Coffey Project. He is updating the sources for death data and burial sites. He has a bit over 1000 headstone photos and finished updating death certificates for mostly NC Coffeys a month or so ago. He has nearly 1500 of these. This was all brought about by updated genealogy software that gives me a better opportunity to cite sources more clearly and streamline sentence structure.

At the moment, there are 21,480 people in the database, 49,517 events, 842 sources, and more than 4000 media items (pix, death certs., marriage licenses, headstones, etc).

COFFEY COUSINS' CLEARINGHOUSE INDEX – CD for \$10 write Reams Goodloe, P.O. Box 9332, Covington, WA 98042 This is all 115 issues of Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse, 547 pages of index, over 3,573 different surnames. There are 17 spellings of Coffey, not counting the 9 that have an "r" or "n" in them.

## NEW ADDRESS

Faye Starbuck, 5 Meadow Ct. E., Whiteland, IN 46184

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Jean Mower, [jcmower@verizon.net](mailto:jcmower@verizon.net)





**MAIL BOX**

\* Millie Coffey has had a medical incident. Her diabetes caused the amputation of a toe. Millie said, "All went well and it is now apparently happy as can be, so that's that and fine with me."

**ODE TO A TOE**

By Millie Coffey

In the dark of early morn  
We reach the hospital door.  
Will be home soon without  
A toe that hurts no more.  
God put us together many years ago  
And you have been a wonderful toe.  
You've been much better to me  
Than I have to you,  
How often did I bring you pain?  
When you were covered with grass

stickers and I was to blame.  
How many times did I stump my toe?  
There's no possible way to  
know!  
Yes, you've been an exceptional  
toe.  
I salute you - that you know.  
So long, toe, no longer  
there,  
I bid you farewell with loving care.  
Thank you for all you've probably  
done  
To make my life such a happy one!

\* Marguerite Yates sent good Christmas news. She is out of the rehab hospital. Her card was a really good rendition of a puffin. Nice job Marguerite.

**IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DUE??**

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