



COFFEY COUSINS' LEARNINGHOUSE



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Issue 120

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

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Cousin,

I'm getting really excited. The convention is getting close and my year of planning is all coming together. I have had so much good help from Amanda Wiltse of Independence Tourism. She has made my job a real joy. Josh Reichert of the Residence Inn is doing all he can to make our visit a good one. I'm also blessed with some really great first cousins who have offered their help.

We have an interesting line of programs in place as we have some very talented Coffey Cousins who are sharing their knowledge.

Fred Coffey's "Genealogy DNA" is extremely educational. It's your chance to learn and ask questions. You will be amazed at what DNA can prove.

Jack Coffee is experienced in finding genealogy on the computer. His web site draws a lot of new Coffey researchers and his DVD on the Edward Coffey line is hugh.

Lorie Okel and Bennie Loftin will lead in a discussion on "witching" graves and mapping cemeteries. Lorie's book "The Langston Howell Valley Cemetery" is an excellent example of what can be done.

COFFEY COUSINS' CONVENTION 2011

April 28 - 30, 2011, Independence, MO

Information on page 17

SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT

page 8

All we need now for a successful convention is YOU. Our hotel is on Arrowhead Ave. and is within "spitting distance" of the Kansas City Royal's Arrowhead Stadium. We need to get our reservations in early if we expect to see a hotel full of Coffey Cousins and not Royal's fans. It's well located, just off of Interstate 70 and at the edge of the Independence Mall.

The only downside is that I realize not all of you can attend the yearly convention. I'm hoping we can keep them going long enough that everyone can eventually get to at least one.

We do still need a host for the 2012 Convention. I hope you will consider it as its lots of fun.

I want to send an thank you to Connie Platt for her "extra support" and to Juanita Daniel for buying subscriptions for other family members.

Let's all look forward to when we can get out and do more research. Be sure to share your findings. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Culley

NEW RECORDS ONLINE AT INDIANA STATE ARCHIVES

This is big news for anyone with ancestors from Indiana. The Indiana State Archives has upgraded and digitized some 2.7 million historic records and put them online for free at www.indianadigitalarchives.org

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NEW NAMES

Virginia Petersen, 107 E. Court St. # A8, Lincoln, KS 67455

John D. Coffey jr., 2264 Olmstead Rd., West Jefferson, OH 43162

Sue Boland, 314 E. Culton St., Warrensburg, MO 64093

William Coffee

Edward Coffey

ANCESTOR**NEW COUSINS**

* Virginia Petersen says that her mother, Myrtle Bell Dalton was born and raised in Cass Co. MO and used to visit family there for many years. My (Bonnie Culley)'s Coffey/Hayes/Daltons lived and are buried in Cass Co. MO. We have lots of genealogy to share.

* John D. Coffey jr. coffeyjande@earthlink.net, sent the sad news of his father's death. We are very sorry to loose a long time friend but are glad to welcome his son, John jr. John wrote, "Over the years Dad would show me items of interest in the newsletter as it pertained to our lineage and it was indeed interesting. He was avid into genealogy. I'm interested in receiving the newsletter now so if you would let me know the particulars it would be appreciated."

John descends from William Coffee who married Sarah Raleigh.

* Sue Bolan listed her family in Issue 119. p.8. She descends from Edward, John, Thomas, James, Elijah, James Harper, John Milton and her Dad, Lloyd Delmar.

Dead End Roads

Spencer Coffey, elzoroblanco@juno.com, has a question he is hoping someone can help with on the Hugh Coffey line. Spencer says; "Two bio-sketches of Colonel Jonathan N. Coffey in Goodspeed's 1894 A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region identify his parents as John Coffey [1773-1843] and Margaret Baskin, also his grandfather, John Coffey, a Revolutionary War soldier of Lancaster District, South Carolina. Since Col. J. N. was still alive when the book was published, the information in the bio-sketches would seemingly have been provided by Col. J. N himself; and thus probably be correct. To distinguish between these two John Coffeys, let us refer to John, Revolutionary War soldier, as "John the Elder", and his son John, husband of Margaret Baskin, as "John Senior".

"Coffey, John [was this John the Elder?] ... served as a cavalryman under Capt. Henry Coffey.... in

the battle at Hanging Rock and was under Col. Eli Kershaw on the Stono Expedition." (Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution, Bobby G. Moss 1983). In addition to John Coffey the cavalryman, another militiaman along on the Stono Expedition, also serving under Eli Kershaw, was Andrew Baskin, alleged father of Margaret, the wife of John Coffey [Senior].

Jumping ahead several years to Williamson County, Tennessee, there we find a 640-acre military patent issued by North (or South?) Carolina, to a Henry Coffey. A military patent that large would customarily have been to a commissioned officer rather than to an enlisted man, and we recall the Captain's rank of previously mentioned South Carolinian Henry Coffey. (If the handwriting does in fact indicate "North" rather than "South", this discrepancy perhaps explained because the boundary dividing the two colonies at that time was in dispute, and it was said most inhabitants of the Waxhaw settlement cared little about where that boundary was anyway.) Henry Coffey of the Williamson County 640-acre military tract had died, and this land was being sold, in 1802 and 1803, so say the deeds, by "John Coffey, son and heir of Henry Coffey." However, the documents suggest this John, "son and heir", was then a resident of nearby Montgomery County, Tennessee, not of Williamson County. The last record of sale by John of his father Henry's land found by ye olde writer was dated January 1803.

Referring again to Goodspeed, we note that our John Coffey (Senior) "was an early settler of Williamson County, Tennessee." Without going into great detail, there is evidence which strongly suggests John (Senior) and Margaret arrived in Williamson County, Tennessee in mid-winter, about January or February 1803.

And here the many questions begin: Was Henry Coffey, owner of the military tract in Williamson County, the same as Capt. Henry of the Battle of Hanging Rock? Was John Coffey, the cavalryman who served under Capt. Henry at that battle, the same as John, "son and heir of Henry"? Did John,

“son and heir of Henry”, move from Montgomery County into Williamson County? Could John Coffey, “son and heir of Henry”, have been John Coffey (the Elder), whom we know was father of John (Senior) and grandfather of our Col. J. N.? Or did John, “son and heir of Henry”, also have a son named John? (- who then might equate to John “Senior”?) Which of the several widely-spaced birth years ascribed to Capt. Henry is correct? Does a bio-sketch of Capt. Henry and wife and family exist? Or of his son John’s family?

The possibility of a connection between Capt. Henry Coffey and John Coffey (the Elder) has occurred to me in the past, but was just one of several such areas that ye olde writer has never gotten around to working. Perhaps the answers to some of these questions about Henry and John, his “son and heir” are known among other Coffey researchers. If facts exist that show Henry Coffey and his son John Coffey absolutely, positively, could NOT be the answers to my questions, I’m hoping that someone will tell me so, and maybe save ye olde writer from spending a lot of time on yet another wild goose chase.”

* Jack Coffee, jack.coffee@gmail.com, asks, “Do you know if the James Coffey who married Elizabeth Coffey [daughter of Nathan & Mary Saunders Coffey] was the son of Joel and Martha Stepp [Stapp] Coffey? Marriage bond was dated Aug. 30, 1794 in Wilkes Co., NC. *

*Source: Bride: Sarah COFFEY; Groom: James COFFEY; Bond Date: 30 Aug 1794; County: Wilkes; Record #: 01 052; Bondsman: George Hayes; Witness: Chs GORDON; Bond #: 000164640

Not sure who George Hayes was, but perhaps a brother to Molly, wife of Benjamin?”

* Bonnie Willbanks “packrat59max@yahoo.com” writes, “I think this was an issue of shame and not something anyone knew about. Gloria was a Coffee who married a Tuttle, and I was conceived as a product of an affair. Considering I was born way early and only weighed 5 pounds, I doubt anyone even knew she was pregnant. I’m pretty sure her son (my brother) didn’t because he was

only about 6. I found myself listed in the birth registry, and they kept my correct birthday. I’m pretty sure Tuttle and Gloria would have divorced after I was born. She probably remarried. I need to get a copy of their divorce, as it would list my brother’s name, but I live in CA now. Funny about your convention - it is on my birthday!!!

Bonnie is looking for Gloria J Coffee Tuttle who lived in Ft. Worth, TX in the 1950’s. Her parents lived in San Antonio. She was born around 1930 and probably divorced Tuttle in 1960’s. Bonnie would appreciate help.

* Steve Brasel, kelsteve96@gmail.com writes, “This is the information I have on our Coffey’s. Alpha Mae Coffey (1898-1977) born and died in Lawrence Co. Alabama. Her parents were: Henry Clay Coffey (1873-1940) and Martha Jane Gray (1873-1946) (often referred to as “Jenny” or “Jinnie”) and likely both Lawrence Co. AL residents.

Henry Clay Coffey’s parents were William Rome Coffey (1850-1930) and Mary Elizabeth Emily Jane Montgomery (1852- c.1948), likely Lawrence Co. Alabama residents.

All we have on William Rome Coffey’s parents is that his father was Larkin Coffey. I was able to trace the possibility that a “W R” Coffee was born to a Larkin Coffee and Francis Coffey from Georgia. The year of birth for WR seemed to line up with 1850 census.

Steve would like to hear from others working on this line.

CORRECTIONS & ANSWERS

Jack Coffee, jack.coffee@gmail.com, sends a retraction for issue 119, p.5.

Catherine Coffey, a daughter of Nathaniel and Nancy Clarke Coffey, married John Nelson McCrary and died June 15, 1917 in Lenoir, Lower Creek Twp., Caldwell Co., NC. That was confirmed by Catherine’s North Carolina death certificate no. 276, which names her father as Nathaniel Coffey of Caldwell Co., and her mother as Nancy Clarke, also of Caldwell Co. The informant named on her death certificate was N. H.

(Nelson Herman) McCrary; her son who probably knew his grandparents. I have a copy of the death certificate.

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* Another addition to Issue 119, p.7 is the following:

It appears that the John Coffee [sic] who married Martha Gray in Owen Twp., Warrick Co., IN on 18 Mar 1845 was a native of Indiana. In the census record of 1850 he is shown with his wife Martha, who was born c1820 in North Carolina, and their children, Ananias, age 3; Elizabeth, age 1 and Lewis, age 8 mos. All of the children were born in Indiana. Also in the household was a George Coffee, age 17, born IN.

A middle initial for John is neither in the marriage record nor in the census and, I have not yet found any other information that gives him the middle name of David.

On the other hand, the marriage record for John D. Coffey who married Sereptia (Sarepta) Chambers on Nov. 30, 1852 does give his middle initial as D., which may or may not stand for David.

I haven't yet figured out who the John Coffey in Warrick Co. belongs to but I think it safe to say that he and John D. who married Sarepta are two different people. This John D. was a son of Ananias and Jane Hindman. I think Ananias died before 1850 in Adair Co. No date for Jane's death. Marvin wrote in his original book that he had found an Annanias Coffee [sic] with wife Catherine in 1850 White Co., TN census. And, after checking that record, they were there; age 63 and born in NC, she age 56, born in PA. In the household was also a male Coffee, age 14 and, whose name I cannot read. It appears to me to be Muscle?a, but can't be sure.

(Possibly someone might recognize this guy and let us know what his name is.)

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On page 7 of the newsletter where it says that one found genealogy of unknown source has John David Coffey marrying Mary Ann Carter and later to Julia Ann Kemp and their son, Martin Alexander married to Margaret A. Kemp:

John A. Coffey did marry a Julia Kemp in Adair on Nov. 27, 1876. Martin A. Coffey did marry a

Margaret Kemp on Feb. 11, 1868 in Adair.

So, unless the marriage dates are incorrect, Martin A. was not the son of John A. As I wrote before, John D. Coffey, who I think is the son of Ananias and Jane Hindman Coffey, married Sarepta Chambers on Nov. 30, 1852 in Adair Co.

Jane was the daughter of Alexander Hindman of Green Co., KY. There is some discrepancy about the marriage as well as the birth of Nancy, their first child. See Coffey Cousins' newsletter of Dec. 91, pages 4-5, and Sep., 1992, page 11.

Some researchers place another child, Ananias (born 1846) between Marshall and John David.

See Coffey Cousins' newsletter, Dec., 1989, Page 2.

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* Janet de la Pena, dlpstudios11@comcast.net, wants to call attention to the story on Issue 119 (December) page 12.

Lou Ann Boone states; "Our Thomas Boone 1774 . . . she adds "Also found that Jesse Boone 1748, son of Israel Boone, brother of pioneer Daniel Boone, married Elizabeth Betsie Coffey, November 26, 1773, Rowan County, NC. She died giving birth to their second child. Jesse next married Sarah McMahan . . . "

This quote came from Jim White's book -

"BooneFfamily to America 1670-1720, vol. ii."

This info was totally unknown by anyone, until he published his book in the fall of 2009. since he rarely includes his sources, it may not be verifiable or accepted. It needs to be documented."

OBITUARIES

JUANITA COFFEY (BOOBER) LONG

Juanita Coffey (Boober) Long, age 83 of Washburn passed away Jan. 21, 2011 at St. Mary's Medical Center in Knoxville. She was preceded in death by her husband, Woody Long; parents, Torrence and Susan Coffey; sisters, Lillian Coffey Harrell, Alta Coffey Coffman, Kathleen Coffey Rucker; brothers, Avery Coffey and William Coffey. Survivors include two sons; Jeffery Long and James Long, Jr.; daughter, Donna and husband Kyle Ferguson; grandchildren, Rebecca and husband Vinton Owens, and Nicholas and wife Kim Ferguson. Graveside services will be 11:00

A.M. Tuesday at Long Cemetery in Washburn.
(Info.- Jack Coffee)

BILLIE C. COFFEE

Billie C. Coffee, 77, of Tulsa, OK, passed away December 14, 2010 in Hartshorne, OK. She was preceded in death by her parents, William Hart and Isabella Cuzalina; and husband, Garnett L. Coffee. Billie began her career in 1959 and soon became the first female trust officer at National Bank of Tulsa, retiring in 2009.

Billie is a faithful member of St. Pius X Church. She is survived by her son, Terry Coffee, grandchildren Zach and Kaci Coffee.

Internment was at Mount Calvary Cemetery in McAlester, OK.

(Tulsa World, 12/17/10 – Bennie Loftin)

WILLIAM CARROL JOBES

William Carrol Jobes, age 91, of Shell Point, Ft. Meyers, FL passed away on Sat, Oct. 9, 2010. As a native of the New Jersey shore, he was a member of the Hamilton Methodist Church; Neptune Twp. Mr. Jobes was a World War II, U.S. Army veteran. He and his late wife Margaret Cook Jobes retired to Florida after his career with New Jersey Bell Telephone Company.

Mr. Jobes later married Marguerite Yates and they resided in Ft. Meyers.

Bill is survived by his wife Marguerite; his brother, Robert Jobes; son, Donald Jobes and daughter, Patricia Holloway.

Graveside services were at Greenwood Cemetery, Brielle, NJ.

(Info: Marguerite Jobes)

JOHN D. COFFEY SR.

John D. Coffey Sr. passed away on December 8, 2010 in Columbus, OH. He leaves a son John D. Coffey jr of West Jefferson Ohio. Mr. Coffey was a long time subscriber to the Coffey newsletter. We send our sympathy to his family.

BETTY JEAN (HICKS) COFFEY

Betty Jean Hicks Coffey, age 79, passed away Dec. 12, 2010, in Council Bluffs, IA. She was born at home in Nettleton on Aug 24, 1931, to Russel and Mary Ann (Davis) Hicks. She graduated from

Hamilton High School in 1948 and from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, IA in 1952. In 1954 she married Roger Coffey of Garden Grove, IA. She is survived by her husband, Roger; daughters, Ann Brus of Denison, IA, Claudia Hauser of Council Bluff, and Debra Holsapple of Marshalltown, IA; son, David Coffey of Council Bluff; sisters, Annetta Lee Stone of Windsor, Marilyn Crass of Versailles and Margaret Skidmore of Harrisonville; brother Ralph Hicks of Kansas City.

Burial was at Memorial Park Cemetery.

(Info - Jackey Culley)

BRENTON COFFEY

Brenton Morland Coffey, 91, of Springfield, IL, died Feb. 17, 2011 at Capitol Care Center. He was born on Oct. 15, 1919, in St. Joseph, to Lou and Hannah Catherine Campbell Coffey.

He is survived by a son, Lonnie (wife: Vicki) Coffey of Urbana; two grandsons, Cory Coffey of Urbana and Brandon Coffey of Maryland Heights, Mo.; and a special friend, Tina Heslop of New Castle, Pa.

Mr. Coffey had been a resident of Springfield most of his life. He attended Wesleyan Holiness Church and worked as a piano tuner in his younger years. He played the accordion at the Illinois State Fair and on the Old State Capitol Square for over 50 years.

Burial will be in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

(The News-Gazette, Springfield, Sangamon Co., IL)

(Note from Jack Coffee - Brenton was the eighth child born to Lewis Alexander and Hannah Catherine "Katie" Campbell Coffey. Lewis was a son of Robert Washington and Margaret Adeline Blair Coffey. Robert was a son of Lewis Moses and Delilah B. Turpin Coffey.

Lewis Alexander was born c1870 in Cumberland Co., IL; Katie on Mar. 22, 1881 in Coffey Co., KS. No dates for marriage or death of Lewis. Katie died Nov. 28, 1923 in Stanton, Champaign Co., IL. Burial place not known to me.

Their first child was Fern, born c1903 in IL.

Married first to Ernest L. Duflo, born May 1, 1889, a son of Chauncey and Sarah Caroline Ceaser Duflo. Census records disagree with birth record.

Census says Michigan; birth record says Medina Co., OH. He and Fern married Apr. 15, 1922 in Ithaca, Gratiot Co., MI. They apparently divorced because on Mar. 21, 1925 in Lansing, Ingham Co., MI, Fern married William Crawford of Marion Co., IN. Dufflo married on Sep. 24, 1930 to Cora Lutz and he died Aug. 4, 1969 in Middleton, Gratiot, Co., MI. No other info.

Second child was Ruby, born Jun. 22, 1905 in Champaign Co., IL, died Oct. 26, 1994 in Wilmington, New Hanover Co., NC. She married first Harley H. Green, born 1900 in Middleton, MI, on Oct. 16, 1921 in Maple Rapids, Gratiot Co., MI. His disposition unknown. When Ruby died she was buried as Ruby Veazy in Lansing, Ingham Co., MI.

Third child was Bessies, born c1908. No other info.

Fourth was Donald K., born 1909 in IL, died Apr. 22, 1931 in Sidney, Champaign Co., IL. His wife's name was Esther. No other information. Number five through 7 was: Jesse, born c1911, died Nov. 6, 1932 at Urbana, Champaign Co.; Arden, born c1914; and Ruth, born c1916. No other info on these.

Number 8 was Brenton, above.)

Obits continued page 16

CURRENTS IN THE STREAM

* Bennie loftin, bennieloftin@windstream.net, says, "Former senator Glenn Coffee will be the new Oklahoma Secretary of State for the new Gov. Mary Fallin."

* Justin Coffey, justincredubil@gmail.com wrote to Fred Coffey about the DNA tests. He says, "I am currently in Afghanistan, but will certainly look into participating in the project when I return to the States! After firing the email to you, I discovered that the Edward Coffey project was also referenced on the Coffey Cousins page. I purchased that DVD last year and sure enough, my grandfather was on it.

I can tell you right now that my grandfather was Thomas Carrol Coffey, married Zelma Hawkins, and lived in Lenoir, North Carolina. They only had one son (my dad), Aubrey Dale Coffey.

I'm sorry I can't really provide more info at this time. I should be back in the States in a few weeks

and will certainly follow up on this!"

It was enough for Fred to give Justin a lineage.

Edward

John

Reuben

Jesse

William Clayton

John Carroll

William Jefferson

Thomas Carroll (your grandfather)

* John Oliver Coffey <joc@online-traction.com> wrote the following; "I established a Coffey family using geni.com and built around the Coffeys from Tipperary Ireland going back to the 1700s. I'm not a genealogist but I'd be curious if there was some way that we could exchange information to enrich the family trees."

Fred Coffey and I responded to John, telling him about our DNA program and hope to learn more about his Tipperary family.

Renee' Furukawa plinckt@yahoo.com is bringing us up to date on the Holt family on whom we printed the Coffey/Holt connection a couple of issues ago. Here is what Renee' has to day on the subject.

"It has been a long time, but would like to up-date my info re: Mary "Polly" Holt born 1816 Whitley City, Kentucky. I believe I have finally followed the trail blazed by Joyce (Holt) Taylor, and figured out a couple of her sources for info re: Mary Holt, fit into the picture. There are two sources that were close enough to Mary "Polly" Holt, for me to feel comfortable with their information.

Source 1:

John Hull, daughter of Melissa J. (nee Holt). Melissa J Holt was the daughter of John H. Holt, and John H., the son of Francis Holt who married Sarah "Sally" Denney. Melissa J. Holt married William Beard Hull, and John was their son. So, this John Hull was the Great-Grandson of Francis Holt. He wrote a note at some point, stating that Mary "Polly" Holt was the 3rd child of Francis and Sarah "Sally" Holt.

Source 2

Ethel Leach, daughter of Alma (nee Strunk) Allen. Alma Strunk was a daughter of Demcy Strunk,

son of Noah Strunk, 1/2 brother to William Marion Holt. I pray I got this all-correct, but you get the idea. So, Ethel is Great Great Granddaughter of Mary "Polly" Holt. Ethel also states that Mary Holt is the daughter of Francis and Sarah "Sally" Holt.

Now that I finally understand how these two sources fit into my family tree, I feel comfortable that they knew what they were talking about, and happily embrace my Holt and Denney ancestors. Since Richard Denney seems to be a discerning researcher, and provided me with some of this info from John Hull, I believe that this relationship seems reasonable to at least one Denney family member as well.

But since I had left you with all of my questions, I thought I should pass this along in case it should save anyone else the trouble of trying to sort it all out.

You probably are familiar with the Turnbo White River Chronicles, but I will be reading them carefully a second time as I think they are relevant and provide a lot of insight into the early lives of the Holt and other families. I hope to delve further into the first wife of William Marion Holt, as I see the name Wilson scattered about with various Coffey and Holt families."

DOCUMENTS GALORE

* From: "Jack Coffee" jack.coffee@gmail.com
The importation of servants was encouraged by the colony as they gave "50 acres of land under the headright system..." for each person imported. It could be that William Moseley was himself an indentured servant. There is a record of a Major George Colclough receiving 1050 acres on Sep 5, 1660 for "transportation of 21 persons into this Colony." In addition to the other 20, the name of a William Moseley appears on the list of those transported.

Jack also says, "Bennett Bradford, by his second wife Margaret White, had at least six children, two of which connect to the Coffey family. One daughter, Sarah "Sally" Bradford, born 1770, died 1840, was the wife of Rice. (I think all Coffey researchers know this by now.)

A son, Henry Bradford, born 1776, died 1871 married in 1709 to Rachel McFarland. Their daughter, Mary G. Bradford, born Mar. 22, 1809, died Oct. 20, 1893, married Asbury Madison Coffey, also probably well know by Coffey researchers.

What I did not know was the relationship between Henry Bradford and Sarah "Sally" Bradford. Source: Genealogical Publishing Co., Reprinted, Genealogies of Virginia Families: From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007), Page 212. "

NEBUZARADEN COFFEY

Sent by Janet de la Peña, dlpstudios11@comcast.net

"Madison Co., KY Wills and Estates 1785 - 1813,"

by Charles M. Franklin, of Will abstracts.

Janet found the abstract for Nebuzaraden Coffey, dated Oct. 1, 1796, Will Book A, p. 141, Recorded March 7, 1797.

Wife not named

Son Joel Coffey

Dau. Sary Coffey

Dau. Polly Coffey

Son Fieldin Coffey

Dau. Sail Coffey

Dau. Nias Hays

Dau. Betsy Coffey

Dau. Ruth Coffey

Exec. Joel Coffey, James Coffey, Fieldin Coffey

Wit. William Allen, Cleveland Coffey, Marthy Coffey

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PLANTATION SONGS

(Provided by Jerry Coffee, j.coffee@verizon.net)

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" was an old slave hymn written for the "underground railroad" for runaway slaves.

The hymn was written and composed by Keziah Love, a slave woman in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Her husband was Wallis Willis, who is credited for composing the hymn. Keziah Love was a slave owned by Henry and Sarah Love, the parents of Charlotte Love Tyson Coffee. Henry

and Sarah Love were Chickasaw Indians who were married in Mississippi and came to Indian Territory on the Trail of Tears.

When Henry Love died, Charlotte, one of seven children, inherited 8,000 acres of bottomland and five slaves. The land was on the Washita River at Coffee's Bend and across the Red River from Holland Coffee's Trading Post. In 1858, a year after Charlotte's first husband Henry Tyson died; Charlotte married Nathan Coffee, Holland Coffee's nephew. Nathan Coffee was operating the Rock Bluff Ferry for Holland Coffee, which was 10 miles east of Coffee's Trading Post. After Nathan Coffee died, Charlotte continued to operate the Rock Bluff Ferry until 1859 when the Butterfield Overland Mail and Passenger Service was rerouted from the Carriage Point Station to Colbert's Ferry on the Red River. The stage line was rerouted in order to provide mail and passenger service to Sherman, Texas. After the Butterfield Overland Mail and Passenger Service by-passed the Rock Bluff Ferry, Charlotte gave her slaves to Frank Colbert, including Wallis Willis and Keziah Love. Frank Colbert, a Choctaw Indian, established the ferry with license from the Choctaw Nation. In 1867, a Texas businessman assumed operation of the Rock Bluff Ferry for local traffic until the Shawnee Cattle Trail was opened. The Shawnee Trail originated at a roundup near Georgetown in Williamson County Texas, crossing the Red River at Rock Bluff Ferry, (now Lake Texoma) continued through Indian Territory to the railhead at Sedalia Missouri.

After Charlotte Love Tyson Coffee turned her slaves over to planter and ferryman Frank Colbert, a Choctaw named Britt Willis was given a plantation slave named Wallace Coffee, who later changed his name to "Wallis Willis." When the civil war began in Indian Territory, Frank Colbert and Britt Willis turned their slaves over to John Kingsbury, son of Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury, a missionary to the Eastern Cherokee in North Carolina and Tennessee and preacher to both slave and free. John Kingsbury took the slaves of Colbert and Willis to old Fort McCulloch for protection when virtually every other nonmilitary enterprise in Indian Territory stopped. In 1862, due to lack of logistical support, Fort McCulloch

was abandoned by the Confederates under General Albert Pike and the cantonment became a camp for refugees from the Indian Nations.

Before the civil war, Charlotte would send Wallace to work at the Spencer Academy for Choctaws. Rev. Alexander Reid, superintendent at the Spencer Academy, began to love Wallace Coffee's plantation songs. In 1861, Rev. Reid closed the Spencer Academy and nine years later, he returned to Princeton, New Jersey to enroll his children in eastern schools. When he left Indian Territory, he took the plantation songs with him.

Acknowledgement:

"Lines Written on an Indian's Face"

Mrs. Jessie Elizabeth Randolph Moore (1871 - 1956, daughter of William Colville Randolph and Sarah (nee Tyson) Randolph. Mrs. Jessie Moore was the granddaughter of Charlotte Love Tyson Coffee and former Treasurer of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

* Jerry Coffee says, "Here is a document I found." AMELIA COUNTY ROAD ORDERS, 1735-1753 Ann Brush Miller, Sr. Research Scientist Virginia Department of Transportation - University of Virginia

HISTORIC ROADS of VIRGINIA, Page 371, 26 September 1751

Ordered that James Walker be Surveyor of the old Rolling Road that leads out of Randolphs Road near his mill and thence across Vaughan's Creek at the old ford and then to continue the old way to the mouth of Sawney's Creek and that Charles Simmons, Manase Mackfield, William Hill, Robert Jennings, Arthur Neil, Giles Evans, Samuel Mathews, Peter Coffee, John Anderson, Andrew Mackadoo, Robert Blake, James Blake, Andrew Dow, Robert Martin, William Smith, Lawrence Moreau, Robert Forbush, Manaseh Mackbride, William Ewing, John Morrow, Thomas Ewing, James Daniel, Thomas Fulton, John Caldwell, James Mackew, James Armstrong, Robert Gresham, William Miller, William Kelley, Thomas Stone, Henry Childs, John Phips, John Hannah, James Ewing, William Macklew, George Ewing, George Cooch, James Walker, Elkanah Jennings, John Childs, and their several male tythes to assist

and work on said road.

Samuel Mathews, the son-in-law of Peter Coffee, was Susanna Mathews Coffee's brother and occupied the same land as Peter Coffee. This list of names will give you the neighbors of Peter Coffee in that area of Amelia County Virginia and will provide names to research that could give more information about Peter Coffee. That portion of Amelia County became Prince Edward County in 1754 and was part of a 60,000 acre land grant in the backwoods of Virginia. In 1738, the land was given to a Scots-Irish Presbyterian preacher, Rev. John Caldwell, by Sir William Gooch, 1st Baronet, under the English Act of Tolerance. The Scots-Irish Caldwell Cub Creek Settlement was opened for 200 Scots-Irish Presbyterian families. Rev. John Caldwell was the grandfather of John Caldwell Calhoun, Vice President of the United States and statesman from North Carolina.

The date on the document coincides with my early estimate when Peter and his family arrived in the Caldwell Settlement from Stafford County on the Potomac River. William Mathews, Peter Coffee's father-in-law, moved his sons to the Caldwell Settlement along with Peter and Susanna (Mathews) Coffee. About 200 Scots-Irish Presbyterians and their families arrived in the Caldwell Cub Creek Settlement from 1740 through 1750 and began improving the land. Peter Coffee's tobacco plantation was along both sides of Cub Creek and Vaughn's Creek in the vicinity of the present community of Fenix, Virginia.

Robert Jennings, mentioned in the text, witnessed Peter Coffee's will.

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NATHANIAL COFFEY and LOUISA
ELIZABETH DURHAM

Janet de la Pena sends records she has found from different sources on Nathan Coffey as follows;

Nathaniel Coffey b. 1796-1803, Wayne Co., KY, to Joel and Martha "Patsy" Coffey and d. bef. 1854. Married abt. 1823 to:
Louisa Elizabeth "Eliza" Durham b. abt. 1800/8, Wayne Co., KY, d. bef. 1854.
Children: Andrew Jackson 1825, and Eben "Ebenezer" Cleveland 1826.

Nathan was unfaithful to Louisa. They divorced 1832, in Wayne Co., KY. Their divorce was not amicable, and she posted an angry warning to other potentially interested women, about her "no good" ex-husband. (I regret I did not keep the Wayne Co., KY, news clip posted years ago on the Internet!)

She second married William Crisp on April 5, 1835. Surety, Daniel Boon (of Wayne Co., KY).

Wayne Co., KY. Vol. 4 Records (copied from internet – no source)

10-29-1829; William Franklin McKinney & (brother) Rane C. McKinney have stated dispositions for Eliza Durham against Nathaniel Coffey, her husband, for divorce settlement. 10-30-1829; Rane McKinney wit. to sum of \$400 in above case. (Rane was the father of the above William and Rane C.)

William F. McKinney was the son-in-law of Daniel Boon.

Nathaniel, son of Joel Coffey and Martha "Patsy," was a cousin to (Louisa) Elizabeth Durham Boon.

The Jarvis Family and Other Relatives

Joel Coffey (78) was born in 1770 in Amherst Co., VA (or Wilkes Co., NC), and died in Dec. 1826 in Wayne Co., KY. He married Martha (Patsy or Jane) Coffey (#133), daughter of his uncle Benjamin Coffey, on 22 Aug. 1793 in Wilkes Co., N.C. She died in Sept. or Oct. 1839 in Randolph Co., MO. Joel had a limited education, but wrote well and managed his business affairs well. He was a farmer and was also in the construction business. In addition to the children listed below, there may also have been an Elizabeth (or Rachel). (R-175, R-922)

Children - Coffey

325. Nathaniel Coffey, b. 1796-1804, m(1) Louisa Durham, 1823, m(2) Nancy Clark, after 1830, d. 1880-1890.
326. Alvina (or Elvira) Coffey, m. Martin Wright, 27 March 1828.
327. Carolina (or Caroline) Coffey, b.c. 1819 (Wayne Co., Ky.), m. Noah Summers.
328. Martha L. Coffey, m. Perry M. Stacey, 19 Feb. 1835.

329. Frances ("Franky") Coffey, m. Andrew Jackson Jones.
330. Henry B. Coffey, m. Sarah Ann Isbell, 24 (or 3) Jan. 1838 (Wayne Co., Ky.).

Graves Family Association says;
CHILDREN OF JOEL COFFEY (78) AND
MARTHA COFFEY

Nathaniel Coffey was born 1796-1804 in Burke Co., N.C., and died 1880-1890 in Caldwell Co., N.C. He first married Louisa ("Eliza") Durham in 1823. She secondly married William R. Crisp on 5 April 1832 in Wayne Co., Ky. Nathan (first moved in with her, then) secondly married Nancy Clark in 1829 (or after 1830) in Burke Co., N.C.

Children - Coffey, by Louisa Durham +873. Andrew Jackson Coffey, b. 1825, m. Martha Jane Spann, 16 Jan. 1850, d. 20 Oct. 1899.
874. Cleveland Coffey, b. 1827.

Children - Coffey, by Nancy Clark
875. Caroline Coffey, b. 1830.
876. Sidney Coffey, b. 1832.
877. John Coffey, b. 1833.
878. Catharine Coffey, b. 1835.
879. Armsted Coffey, b. 1837.
880. Erion Coffey, b. 1838.
881. Ann Coffey, b. 1838.
882. Joseph Coffey, b. 1840.

Andrew Jackson Coffey was born c1825 in Wayne Co., KY and died Oct. 25, 1899 in Montague Co., TX. He and Martha Jane were married on Jan. 8, 1850 in Wayne Co. She was born c1834 in Wayne Co., and died there in c1876. Andrew was a son of Nathaniel and Louisa Durham Coffey. Nathaniel was a son of Joel who was a son of James and Elizabeth Cleveland Coffey. James was a son of John Coffey and Jane Graves. (Blog of Jack Coffee)

John William CRISP (by Kay Harper in 2006) email address not current - posted on RootsWeb. My grandmother on my father's side was Sallie Elizabeth Crisp and her father was John William Crisp b. 3 Feb 1848 in Wayne county KY d. 23 Jan 1897 in Kaufman, Co, TX.

John William's father was William Riley Crisp b. 22 Nov 1825 Burke County NC, moved to Texas in the late 1840's. William Riley Crisp then married wealthy Jane Borden 10 Jun 1864, Kaufman, Texas. She died 1916, in Van Zandt County Texas, on the 14 of August 1899. Wealthy Jane applied and received William's Civil War pension.

I went to the Wayne County courthouse and got a marriage certificate of William Riley Crisp and Telitha Vanhoozer, William Riley Crisp father was William Crisp b1770
William Riley Crisp married Eliza (Louisa) Durham on 5 Apr 1835 in Wayne County KY. She was born 1774 in VA. I have marriage certificate for them too.

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A NORTHERN COFFEY LINE

Continued from issue 119 page 16
...4 Mansel Floyd CONE Born: Jun 29, 1889 Handy Twp, Livingston Co, MI Died: Jan 06, 1957 East Jordan, MI
wife Sara Adaline COOK Born: Dec 29, 1901 Married: Jun 13, 1917 Livingston Co, MI Died: Feb 16, 1927 Oxford, Oakland Co, MI
...4 Winifred Jessie "Jerusha Galpin Cone" CONE Born: Jul 05, 1893 East Bethany, NY Died: Jul 29, 1981 Tyrone Township, Livingston Co, MI husband Mark Adelbert BOUGHNER Born: Jan 04, 1877 West Bloomfield, MI Detroit, MI Died: Feb 19, 1957 Tyrone Township, Livingston Co, Fenton, MI
...4 Olive Mae CONE Born: Mar 08, 1896 East Bethany, NY Died: May 14, 1932, Howell, MI - husband George GARDNER Born: May 20, 1866 Married: Nov 02, 1915 Died: May 17, 1945
...4 Minnie Ellen CONE Born: Oct 27, 1897 East Bethany, NY Died: Dec 24, 1991 Farmington, MI - husband Arthur GOERS Born: Jul 22, 1898 Farmington, MI Married: Dec 20, 1918 Died: Nov 1979 Farmington, MI
...4 Orlin Benson "Little Honey" CONE Born: Jul 19, 1899 Livingston Co, MI Died: Dec 22, 1900 Livingston Co, MI
...4 Georgianna Blanch "Little Johnnie" CONE

page 12

March

Born: Jul 27, 1902 Livingston Co, MI Died: Dec 01, 1905 Livingston Co, MI
*2nd Husband of Eliza Jane Maria COFFEY:
2nd husband John MCENANEY Born: Abt. 1865 Married: Aft. 1910
.. 3 Lewis Nelson COFFEY Born: May 27, 1867 in MI Died: Aug 04, 1946
wife Ruth JOHNSON Born: Abt. 1867
...4 Martin Earl "Earl Coffey" COFFEY Born: Mar 04, 1895 Residence: Eaton Rapids, MI
wife Mary (?) COFFEY Born: Abt. 1895
...4 Susie COFFEY Born: Feb 12, 1897 Died: Apr 30, 1910
...4 Ruby L COFFEY Born: Apr 12, 1899 Ithaca, Gratiot Co, MI Died: Mar 17, 1974 Lansing, Ingham County, MI
husband Chester WONCH Born: Abt. 1899 Married: Abt. 1914
*2nd Husband of Ruby L COFFEY:
2nd husband Zeba HITT Born: Abt. 1895 Ithaca, Gratiot Co, MI Married: 1915
*3rd Husband of Ruby L COFFEY:
3rd husbnad George COLLIER Born: Mar 14, 1897 White Oak Twp, Ingham Co, MI Married: Jul 21, 1916 Dansville, Ingham Co, MI Died: Dec 14, 1977 Markle, IN
...4 John Lewis COFFEY Born: Jan 18, 1902 Ithaca, MI Died: Oct 20, 1962 Eaton Rapids, MI
wife Madeline Grace (Jackson) COFFEY Born: Jul 27, 1907 Married: Apr 19, 1925 Died: Jul 07, 1981 Big Rapids, MI
...4 Gladys COFFEY Born: Jan 01, 1905 husband Albert 'Al' HINKLE Born: Abt. 1901
...4 Theodore 'Doc' COFFEY Born: Feb 20, 1908 Died: Jan 1979 Flint, MI
...4 David Nelson COFFEY Born: Nov 30, 1911 Died: Jan 05, 1989 Harrison, Clare Co, MI
...4 Marguerite 'Maggie' COFFEY Born: Jul 02, 1913
...4 James Hiram COFFEY Born: Apr 08, 1915 Died: Nov 12, 1989 Melrose, Putnam Co, FL
..3 Ida Elizabeth COFFEY Born: Nov 02, 1869 in MI Died: Oct 14, 1900 husband James NICHOLSON Born: Abt. 1869
,,4 James Arthur NICHOLSON Born: Mar 20, 1889
...4 Annie "Anna Nicholson" NICHOLSON Born:

2011

May 22, 1891 Walkerville, Oceana County, MI
Died: Apr 29, 1974 Harrison, M
husbnad Lewis Alva VAN BUREN Born: Apr 12, 1889 Ashley, Gratiot Co, MI
...4 Adna Kingsley NICHOLSON Born: Aug 27, 1893 Died: Jan 28, 1967 Howell, MI
wife Ina SCRIPTER Born: Abt. 1893 Married: 1912
...4 Charles Allen NICHOLSON Born: 1897 Died: May 1983 St Louis, MI
..3 Marion A COFFEY Born: Dec 06, 1873 Fowlerville, MI Died: Nov 13, 1884 Fowlerville, MI
..3 Nelson Kingsley SMITH Born: Apr 13, 1848 Hartland, Livingston Co, MI Died: Aug 07, 1920 Ingham Co, MI
wife Amelia Serena BARNES Born: Jan 08, 1847 Clyde, OH Married: Sep 14, 1886 Ingham Co, MI Died: Jan 16, 1935 Lansing, MI
..3 Cynthia Jerusha SMITH Born: Oct 06, 1852 Brighton Twp, Livingston Co, MI Died: Sep 07, 1908 Conway Twp, Livingston Co, MI
husband Levi PARSONS Born: Abt. 1852 Married: Mar 12, 1874 Cohoctah, MI
...4 Ivel PARSONS Born: Abt. 1875
*2nd Husband of Cynthia Jerusha SMITH:
*2nd husband Giles MORE Born: Abt. 1856 Married: May 04, 1880 Howell, Livingston Co, MI
*3rd Husband of Cynthia Jerusha SMITH:
*3rd husband Elias RICHARDSON Born: Abt. 1852 in NY Married: Aug 15, 1886 Leroy, Ingham Co, MI
...4 Jerusha Ladelia RICHARDSON Born: Aug 31, 1887 Genoa, Livingston Co, MI
husband Emmet COLE Born: Abt. 1882 Locke Twp, Ingham Co, MI Married: Apr 03, 1906 Howell, Livingston Co, MI
...4 Lucinda L. RICHARDSON Born: Aug 31, 1887 Genoa, Livingston Co, MI
...4 George A. RICHARDSON Born: Dec 22, 1893
...4 Amelia M. RICHARDSON Born: Nov 10, 1889 Wayne Co, MI Died: Mar 04, 1984 in Howell, MI
husbnad Albert HUNTLY Born: Abt. 1889
.2 Abel COFFEY Born: 1820 Residence: Webster, Washtenaw Co, MI
wife Rachael M. SCHOFIELD Born: Abt. 1820

Married: Feb 22, 1842 Webster, Washtenaw Co, MI
 ..2 Cynthia COFFEY Born: 1821 Residence: Marion, Livingston Co, MI
 husband John SMITH Born: Abt. 1820 Married: Jun 1842 in Marion Twp, Livingston Co, MI
 ..3 Eliza A. SMITH Born: Feb 22, 1844 husband Warren WILSON Born: Abt. 1844 Married: May 13, 1861
 ..4 Calvin WILSON Born: Abt. 1862
 ..4 Henry WILSON Born: Abt. 1864
 ..4 Edith J. WILSON Born: Abt. 1866
 ..4 Winnie WILSON Born: Abt. 1868
 ..4 Lucetta WILSON Born: Abt. 1870
 ..4 Bertha WILSON Born: Abt. 1872
 ..4 William WILSON Born: Abt. 1874
 ..4 Nora WILSON Born: Abt. 1876
 ..3 Henry SMITH Born: Abt. 1846
 ..2 Martin COFFEY Born: 1826 in New York wife Hannah (?) COFFEY Born: Abt. 1839 MI
 ..3 Charles H COFFEY Born: Abt. 1854 in MI
 ..3 Ada COFFEY Born: Abt. 1857 in MI
 ..2 Eliza COFFEY Born: Sep 1826 NY Died: Dec 30, 1903 Lookout, Woods Co, OK husband Joseph DOTY Born: Sep 1812 Ontario County, NY Married: Dec 30, 1852 Edwardsburg, Cass Co, MI Died: Apr 30, 1906 Lookout, Woods Co, OK Residence: 1860 Jackson Township, Van Buren Co, IA
 ..3 William DOTY Born: Abt. 1839 NY
 ..3 Mary DOTY Born: Abt. 1843 NY
 ..3 Henrietta DOTY Born: Abt. 1845 NY
 ..3 James DOTY Born: Abt. 1850 Iowa
 ..3 Oscar DOTY Born: Mar 14, 1854 IA Died: Aug 24, 1909 Miami, Ottawa Co, OK wife Celia Jane BLEDSOE Born: May 02, 1867 in Huntsville, Madison Co, AR Married: Apr 17, 1887 MO Died: Nov 03, 1946 Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co, CA
 ..3 Edwin DOTY Born: Jul 09, 1859 Lebanon, Van Buren Co, IA Died: Dec 30, 1953 Post Falls, Kootenali Co, Idaho wife Mary Ann THORNBERRY Born: Abt. 1859 Died: Dec 31, 1938 Post Falls, Kootenali Co, Idaho
 ..3 Joseph A. DOTY Born: Jan 10, 1864 McComb, McDonough Co, IL Died: Mar 20, 1900 Alva, Woods Co, OK
 wife Laura A. BECK Born: Abt. 1863 MO Married: Jun 11, 1884 Died: Nov 17, 1910
 ..2 Levi COFFEY Born: 1827 Essex County, NY Died: Feb 24, 1891 Handy Twp, Livingston Co, MI
 wife Juliette WHITE Born: Abt. 1827 Died: Jun 08, 1881 Handy Twp, Livingston Co, MI
 ..3 Franklin 'Frank' COFFEY Born: Abt. Aug 1849 MI Died: Aug 27, 1900 Livingston Co, MI
 ..3 Ida E. COFFEY Born: Abt. 1852 MI Died: Aug 06, 1873 Handy Twp, Livingston County, MI husband S.B. KING Born: Abt. 1852
 ..4 Lenia KING Born: Abt. 1873
 ..3 Henry A. COFFEY Born: 1854 in MI wife Ella DAVIS Born: Abt. 1854 in MI Married: Nov 03, 1877 Livingston Co, MI
 *2nd Wife of Henry A. COFFEY:
 2nd wife Amy NOWLIN Born: Abt. 1858 MI Married: 1895 Livingston Co, MI
 ..4 Ethel COFFEY Born: Abt. 1897
 ..4 Flora COFFEY Born: Abt. 189?
 ..4 Vance COFFEY Born: Abt. 1901
 ..4 Vern COFFEY Born: Abt. 1903 wife Flossie FOWLER Bn: Abt. 1903 Married: Nov 17, 1908 Livingston Co, MI
 ..4 Howard COFFEY Born: Jul 14, 1889 Died: Sep 25, 1954 Lansing, MI wife Ruth I. TOMLIN Born: 1895 Nashville, Barry Co, MI
 ..3 Fredrick 'Fred' M. COFFEY Born: Apr 05, 1861 Handy Twp, Livingston Co, MI wife Julia LING Born: Abt. 1863
 ..4 Edith B. COFFEY Born: Abt. 1881
 ..3 Sarah COFFEY Born: Abt. 1865 MI
 ..3 Marshall COFFEY Born: Dec 18, 1865 wife Effie C. GRISWOLD Born: Abt. 1865 Married: Nov 20, 1889 Livingston Co, MI
 ..2 William COFFEY Born: Jul 04, 1829 NY Died: Feb 04, 1892 Diamond Springs, Allegan Co, MI wife Margaret KNICKERBOCKER Born: Abt. 1829 Married: Abt. 1855 Died: Apr 02, 1866 Handy Twp, Livingston Co, MI
 ..3 Abel COFFEY Born: Jul 1856 MI wife Elmira COURTER Born: Jul 1858 MI Died: Oct 05, 1923 Sidney, Montcalm Co, MI

- ..4 Elwin COFFEY Born: Mar 1872
- ..3 Henry COFFEY Born: Abt. 1859 IL Died: Sep 07, 1877
- ..3 Emma ‘Emmie’ Lee COFFEY Born: Abt. 1862 IL
husband -? MCQUEEN Born: Abt. 186
- ..4 Lydia MCQUEEN Born: Abt. 1878
- ..3 Charles ‘Charley’ COFFEY Born: Bet. 1863-1865 IL Died: Abt.1930 OR *2nd Wife of William COFFEY:
2nd wife Emma L. (Mesler) COFFEY Born: Jul 03, 1851 NJ Married: Mar 29, 1868 Sidney, Montcalm Co, MI Died: Jan 11, 1909 Diamond Springs, Allegan Co, MI
- ..3 William COFFEY Born: Mar 28, 1869 Sydney, Montana Co, MI Died: Mar 10, 1934 Holland, Ottawa Co, MI
- ..3 Luvena COFFEY Born: Sep 24, 1872 Montcalm Co, MI Died: Sep 30, 1953 Cooper Township, MI
- ..3 Alvin COFFEY Born: Dec 15, 1877 Isabella Co, MI Died: May 02, 1951 Kalamazoo, MI
- ..3 Ernest COFFEY Born: Sep 16, 1885 Wabaunsee, Wabaunsee Co, KS Died: Dec 16, 1960 Diamond Springs, Allegan Co, MI

David Bazzett <David.Bazzett@gmail.com>, author, says, "I've not lost my mind ... It's backed up on DVD somewhere. :)"

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**75th Coffee Family Reunion
June 24 - 26, 2011
Lubbock, TX**

This is a family reunion which has been held in Texas for 75 continuous years. It is always interesting as they have a lot of tours and a lot of cousins to share interest with. Their prices are really good.

**For more information contact;
Robert Glasscock,
phone - 806-789-3048
email - rglasscock@nts-online.net**

3 survivors' bond endures 66 years after ship attack

by Cindy Horswell
Houston Chronical 12/24/2010

When three Houston men in their 80s gathered this week to reminisce about their most unforgettable Christmas Eve, they didn't have visions of sugar plums and fairies.

They are among an estimated few dozen in the nation and the only Houstonians left who survived the Dec. 24, 1944, sinking of the troop transport ship, the SS Leopoldville. That catastrophic event, which killed 800 soldiers, was their baptism into World War II and puts them into a special brotherhood that only other survivors understand, said 86-year-old Carol Coffee, whose birthday also fell on that fateful night.

On Thursday, Coffee and the other two local survivors — 86-year-old Nathan Kelly and 84-year-old Corlis Holt - quietly recalled the many friends they lost after a German submarine's torpedo penetrated their ship's hull in the English Channel. Every year they try to have a small ceremony to remember their fallen brothers. The three were among 52 veterans from Houston who served in the U.S. Army's 66th division. The trio are the only ones from the 66th still alive. "My company lost 41 men. I knew them all. I think about it every Christmas," Coffee said. "It's hard for people who have not experienced the depravity and wretchedness of war to understand. But those who endured that with us transcend all other friendships."

Holt agreed, saying each Christmas Eve he pauses about the time the ship was hit to "think about it." Kelly said a close call like that is riveted in one's memory. After the war ended, he took swimming lessons at Texas A&M, where he was studying to become an engineer - and that training helped him feel safe around water again.

The Leopoldville, which was bringing reinforcements to the Battle of the Bulge, was hit five miles off the French coast. The trio was

among 2,500 soldiers who had been forced to forgo the traditional turkey dinner that day and rushed single file onto the ship.

Coffee remembers the air grew stale below deck where the soldiers were being densely packed into a ship that had been a luxury liner supposed to hold one-fourth that many.

So he ventured to the top deck to use the latrine and then stayed to breathe fresh air by the railing when blue flames exploded from the ship about 75 feet behind him.

Down below deck, the jolt nearly knocked Holt out of his hammock. He grabbed a life vest and rushed to the top deck to see what happened. At first, both thought it was nothing serious, maybe a boiler that exploded. But soon they realized the ship was listing and knew it was going down.

“Some started jumping over board into the cold 42-degree water,” said Holt “I knew I needed to do something fast. It was every man for himself. There were no orders.”

Both he and Coffee spotted a British destroyer that was brushing alongside the Leopoldville and would wind up rescuing about 500 men. Each of those soldiers had to take a leap of faith - jumping the 10 or more feet that separated the two vessels that were bumping and tossing around in the rough waters.

“I saw more than two who didn't make it and were crushed between the two boats,” said Coffee. “I remember distinctly one sergeant from Tennessee being crushed. He was never committed. He got ready to go. Then he was overcome with doubt in the middle of his takeoff and tried to abort.”

So Coffee decided to use the high-jumping skills he'd learned in high school and never look back. The other trick was timing the jump. The lighter destroyer was going up and down on 20-foot swells, so that sometimes the destroyer's deck rose way over his head.

“Luckily, I managed to catch it on the way down,”

said Coffee, who later became the executive director of the Greater Houston Safety Council. Holt remembers one of the British naval officers holding out his arms and saying: “Jump, lads, jump! You may never have a chance like this again.” And so Holt took his advice.

Kelly, on the other hand, didn't jump onto the destroyer or into that cold water. He decided his best bet was to go down with the ship, staying safe and warm for as long as he could.

“You could only last one hour in that water and the ship took about two hours to go down,” he said. So he held tight to the ship's railing as the front of the vessel began to rise and the back sank deeper and deeper.

He did not release his grip even when the ship pulled him several feet under water waiting until the suction stopped. Then he did not know what was up or down in the dark water but his life jacket ripped him up to the surface, he said.

He spotted a new ship that was taking on survivors about 150 yards away and swam to it. He was too weak to climb the rope up to the ship as others scrambled over him. So he floated to the back of the ship and asked two sailors to throw him another line and a large wave lifted him up high enough onto the rope so that the sailors could pull him aboard.

Kelly was fine except for having swallowed a gallon of saltwater from the waves that had washed over him. All three remembered being treated to a turkey dinner that night after their rescue. Holt said someone had put up an evergreen tree with some crude decorations and he joined others in singing carols. “It was a beautiful sound,” he said.

But Coffee, who got extra chow because it was his birthday, missed the singing. He was taken to where hundreds of bodies pulled from the water were stacked like cords of wood on the dock. He helped load them onto trucks to be taken home.

“I try not to recall that very vividly,” he said.

RUTH WHARTON

Ruth Coffey Wharton, 78, Independence, MO passed away Jan. 17, 2010 at her home. She was born July 26, 1931 in Sleeper, MO. She graduated from Lincoln, MO High School in the class of 1949. She worked for the Percy Kent Bag Co. for over 25 years, retiring in 1997. She was a member the First Christian Church of Independence. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Lee Wharton; son, Larry Lee Wharton; brothers, Delmar Coffey, James Coffey Rollen Coffey, Glenn Coffey and sister, Emma Lou Griffith. She is survived by son Leon Wharton (Lori), Pleasant Hill, MO; daughter, Brenda Butrum (Jeff), Blue Springs, MO; sisters Maxine Wiseman, Raytown, MO, and Waneta Matney (Bob) Edgewood, WA; brother Gene Coffey (Barbara) Lincoln, MO. Interment at Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

VIOLA M. COFFEY

Viola M. Coffey, 89, passed away Jan. 1, 2011 in Windsor, MO. She was born March 2, 1921 in Pettis Co. Mo, the daughter of Irvin Charles and Hallie Opal (Howery) Ziegel. On Dec. 21 1940, Camden Co. she married Finis Armstard Coffey. He preceded her in death on Nov. 8, 1990. Survivors include a son, Mike Coffey and wife Mary Ann, Kansas City and 2 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Interment; Laurel Oak Cemetery, Winsor, MO

C.L. COFFEY

C.L. Coffey, 83, died April 21, 2010 at home in Windsor, MO. He was born June 22, 1926 in Windsor, the son of Bluford Garfield and Delphia Ann (Campbell) Coffey. On Sept. 8, 1950, Buffalo, MO, he married Peggy Sue Tindle, who survives at the home. Mr. Coffey attended Lincoln High School until he was drafted in the U.S. Army before completing the 10th grade. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Windsor. He is survived by a son Chuck Coffey, Windsor; daughter, Charlotte Nevius, Louisiana, MO. He was preceded in death by two sons, Dennis Coffey June 1974 and Jim Coffey, Jan. 2004; 2 great grandchildren, Tyler Coffey and JayLynn Nevaeh Harrison; 3 brothers,

Finis Coffey; Boss Coffey; and Clayton Coffey; 2 sisters, Agnes Swisher and Verdie Nations. Interment - Laurel Oak Cemetery, Windsor, MO.

**CHECK THIS NEW GENEALOGY SITE**

Most of us have seen the Allen County Public Library web site at www.genealogycenter.org but they have a new online service worth checking out. It is called "Ask a Librarian." The site says, "Uncertain whether we have a record you're seeking? Need a quick pointer on what to do next in your research? Ask a Genealogy Librarian and get a quick response. Answers to your questions about our catalogs, collections, databases, programs and other services are just an email away. Contact us at Genealogy@ACPL.Info for additional information about The Genealogy Center or a quick pointer to help you advance your research to your general queries within 48 hours." The Allen County Public Library's Fred J. Reynolds Historical Genealogy Department is the second-largest genealogy department in North America. It is home to more than 350,000 printed volumes and 513,000 items of microfilm and microfiche. Only the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is larger. - Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, www.eogn.com October 12, 2010

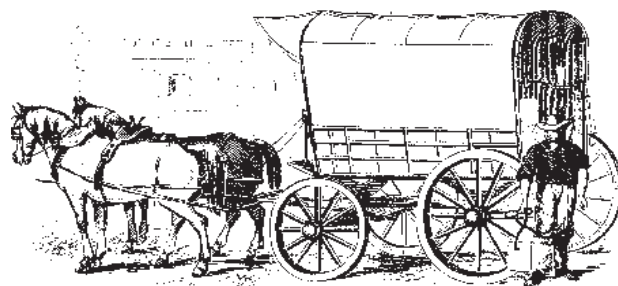
DIRECTIONS TO RESIDENCE INN

From Interstate 70, leave highway on exit 15. Go north on Highway 291 to the first road leaving 291 to the right (east) which will take you to 39th street. Arrowhead Ave is only a couple of blocks farther. Turn left onto Arrowhead and the hotel is on the first block off of 39th street.

COFFEY COUSINS' CONVENTION

April 28 - 30, 2011

Independence, Missouri



SCHEDULE

MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW

Special Rates for Convention

Residence Inn by Marriott, \$74.99 + tax
call: (816) 795-6466
3700 S. Arrowhead Ave., Independence, MO
Attached hotel owned by same chain.

Fairfield Inn, \$69.99 + tax
call: (816) 795-1616
Our meeting room is in the Residence Inn.
Major difference - Residence Inn has hot
breakfast, larger rooms and Fairfield has
continental breakfast.

BANQUET

The banquet will be served buffet style with 2
entrees. At present I have herb roasted pork
loin and chicken parmesan. This may be subject
to change. The price of \$15 includes tip and
tax.

Speaker: David Jackson from the Jackson Co.
Historical Society - "A River Runs by It."

Prizes will be given away at the end of the
meeting.

April 28th

Register and get acquainted. Meeting room
open in afternoon.

April 29th

8:30a.m. Leave hotel to carpool to Truman
Library. Please be at entrance by 8:15.

11:00 a.m. we will gather again and drive to
Historic Independence Square for lunch.
Afternoon is free for research in our meeting
room or touring of Independence.

3:00 p.m. Program on Mapping a Cemetery/
Witching graves.

7:00 p.m. - Coffee/y DNA program
by Fred Coffey

April 30th

10:00 a.m. Searching the Web, by Jack Coffee

6:00 p.m. Annual Banquet & Business Meeting

May 1 - Fairwell to those leaving for home. See
you again next year.

TRUMAN LIBRARY RESERVATIONS

Number attending _____ @ \$5.75 ea, Total \$ _____

BANQUET

Number attending _____ @ \$15.00 ea. Total \$ _____
Final total \$ _____

—
Please let us know the names of those attending so nametags can be prepared.

Make Check to **Bonnie Culley**
4012 Cambridge Circle
Jefferson City, MO 65109

COMPUTER NEWS

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

DNA web site: www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA

COFFEY DNA PROJECT: If you haven't checked on the Coffey / Coffee Surname DNA Project recently, drop in at the following and see what's been going on:

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA

Russell Co.KY information at <http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo>.

COFFEY COUSINS' CLEARINGHOUSE INDEX – CD for \$10 write Reams Goodloe, P.O. Box 9332, Covington, WA 98042 This is all 1156 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.

COFFEY COUSINS' CLEARINGHOUSE – back issues on CDs, 1 thru 33, 34 thru 63, or 64 thru 93. \$10 each.

Bonnie Culley, 4012 Cambridge Cir. Jefferson City, MO 65109.

SORT YOUR STORY –sortyourstory.com is sponsored by Lorel A. Kapke, loreelak@vom.com

COFFEY DVD - \$35 from Jack Coffee, <http://coffeycousins.blogspot.com/>

NC NEWSPAPER DIGITIZATION PROJECT: <http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/default.htm>

In 2009, the North Carolina State Archives completed a project to digitize newspapers from its collection that were, up until that time, only available on microfilm. These materials include papers dating from 1752-1890s from cities like Edenton (1787-1801), Fayetteville (1798-1795), Hillsboro (1786), New Bern (1751-1804), Salisbury (1799-1898), and Wilmington (1765-1816) - a total of 23,483 digital images that are keyword searchable. The project was made possible by a LSTA grant provided by the State Library of North Carolina.

From: Janet de la Peña <dlpstudios11@comcast.net>

Address Service Requested

First Class Mail

**Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse
4012 Cambridge Circle
Jefferson City, MO 65109**