



# COFFEY COUSINS' LEARNINGHOUSE



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**COFFEY COUSINS CONVENTION 2012**  
**LAKE CUMBERLAND STATE PARK, RUSSELL CO. KY**  
**APRIL 26 - 28, 2012, see page 17 for details.**

**Check out what is going with the COFFEY DNA**  
**see page 12**

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Cousin,

You just have to get to the Coffey Convention if at all possible. You seriously don't want to miss Rita Johnson's workshop, helping us get from Virginia to Kentucky. We are so weak in this area and she is an expert. She has probably forgotten more than I will ever learn.

Of course our location is exceptional. We have met here once before and Jim will vouch for the food. (I hope they still have the same chef. He was good!) We can still get rooms as long as the park has openings and we can still be added to the banquet up to the day of the meal. This is something we have NEVER had before. Prices are really good too. We don't get this lucky often.

The Pumpkin Patch sounds like a fun location. Our ancestors would plant pumpkins when they had cleared a new patch of ground. Pumpkin vines will choke out any and all weeds. (Hope I'm not a weed!!) I also understand that our Canadian Coffey cousins are going to be with us again this year. It is amazing how many of the Coffeys went through North Carolina and Kentucky on their way west.

I am sorry that this newsletter is late ... Again. My excuses this time are medical. Jim spent a week in the hospital the first of February and has had numerous "follow-up"

appointments. He is doing well now but had problems with his back again. To top it all off, I had a couple of skin cancers removed from my face and had to have some minor surgery this month. We are both doing very well again. Now to catch up!!!

Genealogy wise, I had a great time helping Fred, Lorie and Jack in tracking down the Coffey that is now in the state of California. He can be traces from the Irish lineage you can read about, starting on page 12. We found the guy but he wouldn't submit his DNA. Said he wasn't interested but was probably just afraid to submit to something he did not understand. Just being able to find a living person who we can attach to one of these old lineages is fabulous. It could be YOU next!

Now that it's warm again, it's time to hit the libraries, historical societies and county clerk offices. Plan your trip to Kentucky to also stop on the way home to do a little more research. We will be looking forward to seeing what you have found.

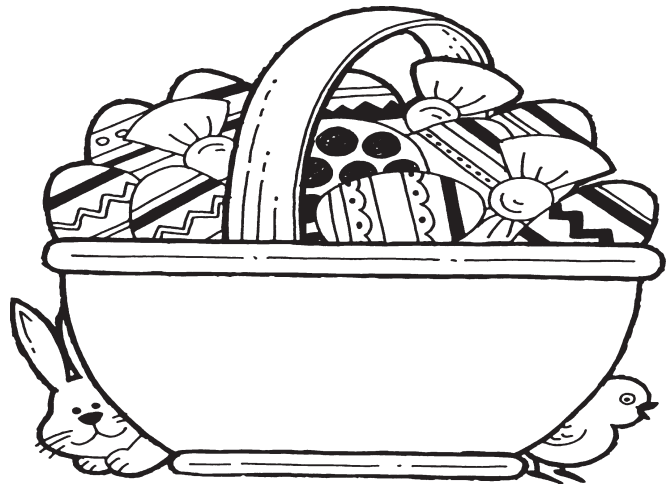
Sincerely, your cousin  
Bonnie Culley

### NEW ADDRESS

Bennie Loftin, 19037 South US Hwy 69,  
Kiowa, OK 74553-5186

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From: Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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**NEW SUBSCRIBER**

Kimberly Scott, 15263 N. 52nd Land, Glendale, AZ 85306

**ANCESTOR****MAIL BOX**

\* Deborah Hulett <dahulett@tds.net> says: My Mom, Annabelle Winfrey, and I, Deborah Hulett, are descended from Coffey's, Gossett's, Winfrey's, Phelp's, Stapp's, from the Jamestown and Somerset, KY areas. We have been working on our genealogy for many years. I have my DNA information with Family Tree for the Winfrey's. We just recently discovered the Coffey line. Don't know any of the Coffey clan. Fortunately, we both live in Knoxville, TN and will be attending the 2012 Reunion in April 26-28th @ Cumberland State Park.

\* Gene Tomlin wrote that he misses John Taylor as "we had become very good cyber-friends over the years and he was a tremendous help to me, not only with my Coffey kin but with my Amherst County kin as well. He was in the area quite often, but we just were never able to get together. I wish I had tried harder now."

**COFFEY COUSINS,  
CLINCH MOUNTAIN, TN AND  
BEYOND**

Bennie Loftin, bennieloftin@windstream.net, says that she will share by e-mail her book "Coffey Cousins, Clinch Mountain and Beyond" to anyone who wishes a to have a copy.

**OBITUARIES**

## MATTIE YVONNE COFFEY

Yvonne was born February 4, 1937, and passed away January 11, 2012. She graduated from Homer High School and obtained bachelors and master's degrees from Northwestern State College and performed post-graduate work at LSU in Baton Rouge. Following several years of teaching, first at Greenwood and later at Woodlawn in Shreveport, she completed her career as head librarian at Woodlawn. Yvonne's life was characterized by her dedication to family. She served as family historian and gatekeeper of our life passages. One of the great joys in her life was genealogical research of her family, and also more extended family. She was the official historian for the Hathorn Cemetery and completed a study of the Liberty Cemetery near Martin, LA. She had also researched a number of other cemeteries in the area. Her dedication is perhaps best exemplified by a sign hanging in her study inscribed [sic] "Family, forever, for always and no matter what". Yvonne was preceded in death by her father, Hubert Russell Coffey; mother, Mattie Greer Coffey; and brother, Hubert Gerald Coffey. She is survived by her sister, Mary Coffey Rekas and husband Anthony of McDowell, Virginia; brother, Bill Coffey and wife Gloria "Cooky" of Baton Rouge; and sister-in-law, Nelda Edwards Coffey of Shreveport. (Hubert was 19 yrs. old in the

1930 Natchitoches Parish, LA federal census with his parents, and siblings Doyle and Margery.) (The Shreveport Times, Jack Coffee)

#### ERNEST LLOYD COFFEY

Lloyd Coffey passed away Dec. 19, 2011. He was born in Salem, OR, April 25, 1923 to Ernest Coffey a carpenter, and Effie Lillian Connett, a housekeeper. Lloyd was one of five children. Sister, Loretta Fay Selmer survives him, and Dorothy, Alva and Carl preceded him in death. Lloyd quit school in the eighth grade. He became an American Merchant Marine during WWII. After the war he worked at a plywood mill working up to spreader man. Lloyd leaves behind his wife, Rosemary Boerene Coffey; three sons, Mike, John, and Alan; stepchildren, Roseann Cotton, Virginia Monzo, Robert Fiocchi, Mary Powell, Dale and Ellen Hartley.

Internment will be in the Willamette National Cemetery (Oregonian, Dec 25, 2011, Lorie Okel & Fay Selmer)

#### GLADYS COFFEY SYBOUTS

Gladys M. Coffey Sybouts, 90, of Tillamook, OR passed away Oct. 31, 2011. She was born Feb. 3, 1921 in Marengo, WA to Davis F. and Rose (Grant) Coffey, the fifth of eight children. The family moved to Outlook, WA in 1930 and Gladys graduated from Sunnyside High School in 1941. After graduation she worked as a phone receptionist for an insurance company in Yakima. Gladys met and married Lawrence Sybouts. She is survived by her

daughter Gayle Talbot of Moses Lake, WA, Karen (Brent) Begalka of Renton, WA, one sister; Barbara Swett of Lynnwood, WA, one brother; Robert (Wanda) Coffey of Cle Elum, sisters-in-law Lillian Coffey and Bonnie Coffey of Yakima. Gladys was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Larry; parents, Davis and Rose Coffey; two brothers, Byron Coffey and Ralph Coffey; and three sisters, Vera Morgan, Edith Jauhola, and Helen Hitzler. Internment was in the Willamette National Cemetery. (Yakima Herald, Lorie Okel)

#### PHYLLIS MARIE (HILL) COFFEY

Phyllis died in Hillsboro, OR on Dec. 8, 2011 after an 18-month battle with cancer. She was born in Visalia, CA on Feb. 6, 1948 to Bill and Garry Hill. In 1980, she married Thomas Coffey and moved to Charlotte NC. In 1992, they moved with their daughter Julie to Hillsboro where Phyllis worked as a medical transcriptionist. She is survived by her husband Tom; daughter, Julie Taitano; siblings, Joyce Fahey, Michael Hill, Eric Hill, Aaron Hill and Dawn Hill. (The Oregonian, Lorie Okel)

#### EDITY COFFEY DUNCAN

Edith "Edie" Coffey Duncan, Goose Creek, Berkeley Co., SC, passed away, Feb. 25, 2012 surrounded by her family, Mrs. Edith "Edie" Coffey Duncan, 85, wife of O. Frank Duncan Jr. Edith was born Nov. 24, 1926 in White Oak, KY to the late Jay H. Coffey and Jane Abbott Coffey. She was the 9th of 13 children. She is survived by her husband of 51 years O. Frank Duncan,

Jr. , daughters: Janie Police - Chassereau and her husband Lewis of Goose Creek, SC and Etta Fay Fort and her husband Dean of Moncks Corner, SC; a son; O. Frank Duncan III and his wife Karen of Summerville, a brother; Robert Coffey of Goose Creek, SC and a sister ; Evelyn Coffey Kent of Charleston, SC. She was predeceased by a son, Richard Scott Reilly. Interment will follow at Carolina Memorial Park. (Edith was the daughter of Jay Harlan and Jane Abbot Coffey. He was a son of Lewis and Arminda Litton. Lewis was a son of Joseph and Beth Ada Strunk. Joseph was a son of James and Sarah Sumpter Coffey. James was a son of Reuben and Millie Morris Coffey. And, Reuben was a son of the Rev. James and Eliz. Cleveland Coffey; James being a son of John and Jane Graves Coffey. Jack Coffee)

#### RUSSELL COFFEE

" Coach" Russell Coffee whose prolific coaching career spanned an important era of high school and college football in Texas died on Dec. 12, 2011, in Austin, Texas. Russell Weldon Coffee was born to Ira M. and Mary Ruth Coffee in Colorado City, Texas on April 27th, 1925. After graduating from Loraine High School he joined the US Navy in 1945. After the war, Russell graduated from Abilene Christian College lettering in football, baseball, tennis and track. In 1949, Mr. Coffee's first coaching job was at San Angelo, Texas. In 1950 he went to Llano High School. Mr. Coffee also received his MS from Hardin Simmons University

in Abilene IN 1951. Coach Coffee moved to Weatherford, Texas from 1953 to 1959. From 1972-1973 Coffee coached at Texas Christian University as the offensive coordinator.

Mr. Coffee is survived by his longtime friend, Ginny Harper, along with his three children and daughter in law, Rusty and Maribeth Coffee of Tool, Texas, Craig Coffee, Kay Lynn Coffee Watson of Austin; his sisters Mara Lee Nichols of Whitney, Texas, Jane Sandlin of Austin, and his ten grandchildren.

(LINAGE: Russell Coffee's father Ira was a son of Thomas J. and Hanna Dorn Coffee. Thomas J. was a son of John James and Nancy Lamberson Coffee. John James was a son of Joshua and Deliah Conger Coffee. Joshua was a son of David and Sytha Meadows Coffee. David was a son of William and Mary McAllister Coffee and, William was a son of Peter and Susannah Mathews.

(Info: Jack Coffee)

OLIVIA ZENOLA COFFEE ISBELL  
Olivia Zenola Coffee Isbell, 94, a longtime Coalgate, OK resident died Jan. 31, 2012. She was born March 24, 1917 in Parker, the daughter of James Arthur and Julia Bell (Griffin) Coffee. She married L.B. Isbell on Dec. 24, 1936 in Coalgate. He preceded her in death on May 13, 1985.

Also preceding her in death were her parents; a son, Jimmy Isbell; a grandson, Billy Cameron; four brothers and five sisters.

Burial was in the Coalgate cemetery.

(Atoka County Times and Bennie Loftin)

## ERNEST LLOYD COFFEY

Ernest L. Coffey passed away Dec. 19, 2011. He is buried at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, OR. Loretta Fay Selmer says that he was the last of the Coffeys in her family. She celebrated her 92nd birthday in January.

(Info: Loretta Fay Selmer)

## DAISY RUBY COFFEY STULTZ

Daisy Ruby Stultz, age 86, of Hamilton, Ohio died Feb. 15, 2012. She was born in Berea, KY on May 14, 1925. The daughter of Samuel and Mallie (Owens) Coffey. She was married to Homer A. Stultz, Dec. 8, 1945. He preceded her in death August 8, 1985.

Survived by her sons, Michael A. Stultz and wife Lois Stultz of Murfreesboro, TN and Geoffrey S. Stultz and wife Debra Stultz of Airway Heights, Washington. Preceded in death by sisters, Winnie Cornett, Lelia Woodward, Louvada Morrison; brothers, Stanley Coffey, Ralph Coffey, and Kenneth Coffey.

Internment was at Rose Hill Burial Park.

(Info: Hamilton Journal-News, Hamilton, OH)

I believe her father was probably Samuel, a son of William Willis and Sarah "Winnie" Parsons. Jack Coffee

## CAROLE JEAN COFFEY

Carole Jean Coffey of Plano, TX, passed away Jan. 17, 2012. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Larry Coffey; son Stephen (Melissa) Coffey of SanClemente, CA; daughter Amy (Michael) Bass of Tyler, TX; and her mother Evelyn Moore of Little Rock, AR. She was

preceded in death by her father, Doyce Moore.

(Info:Dallas Metro & Joe Langwell)

**Dead End Roads**

\* My name is Pam Ingermanson (pam438@gmail.com) and I have a possible Coffee dilemma. My gggrandparents are Samuel and Mary Evans/Evens. They were living in Smyth County, VA in the 1850 census. There is a 72-year-old woman living with them by the name of Catherine Coffee. The census does not state relationships so I have no idea how she fits in the family. In 1840 they were living in Wythe County, VA and there is a woman in the correct age bracket living with them but without names, it is only an assumption that it is Catherine.

I have never found any connection between the two families but I also have never found anything farther back for Samuel and Mary. I don't know anything about parents or siblings! I have even done research on the Calfee line since there are also Calfees in the area. Would you possibly have any kind of information that would give me any clues as to where to look? Thank you for any help or for just listening!

\* Judy Bunasky <jbun906@yahoo.com> is looking for information regarding a Melvina Coffey who married her grandfather on May 2 1897. Cumberland Co. KY. Apparently she died before 1900 because Judy's grandfather (John William York) was listed as widowed on that census, living with his brother Emmett York in Burkesville. I have been unable to find a Melvina Coffey in that area prior to that record of marriage. I thought perhaps she had been married before as well but on the marriage document in the courthouse it said that the wedding was held at her mother's home and listed

her as Meloina Coffey. I believe she was born around 1867 but I don't know where although I've looked in Tennessee and Indiana thinking perhaps she was there. Let me know if you have any insight where she came from.

\* Marlene Myers-Josephsohn, mmjosephsohn@hotmail.com, writes; "I descend from Edward > John > Thomas through both Thomas' children Thomas Jr and William since Thomas' son Thomas Jr married William's daughter Margaret. I descend from this union through their son Joshua T Coffee's marriage to Rebecca Shepherd (looks like he had at least one out of wedlock child) Their daughter, Mary Elizabeth Coffey m James A Hanes and their son Adolphus Martin Haynes was my grandfather. Although I am not in touch with any of the Coffey cousins in or from Wilkes. I know Mary Elizabeth Coffey Hanes had brothers Druie John, J Rufus, Perry and Doctor Franklin, half brothers, John Peyton and Thomas Joshua. With so many brothers, I assume there are still male descendants around the Wilkes area who would take the DNA test.

Perry Coffey murdered his brother Druie in 1895 by blows to the head. Perry had married my g grandfather Hanes sister Nancy and had one daughter. Perry died just seven years after his brother's murder, I assume in jail as his sentence was 20 years.

Also, I believe at least one descendant of Doctor Franklin Coffey is or has been on Ancestry and may be contactable."

Fred Coffey sent Mariene the following response; According to "The Edward Project" Perry did NOT, die in jail. He escaped the pen some 18 months later and was never re-taken."

The Wednesday June 4, 1902 edition of Wilkesboro, N.C.'s "The Chronicle" contained the following article:

"Perry Coffey died last week in Mulberry Township. He died of consumption. Coffey is the man (sic) was convicted and sent to the penitentiary in 1895 of the charge of killing his brother Drury. He escaped the pen some 18 months later and was never re-taken. We understand that he denied to the last that he killed his brother."

\* Doug Land, wdforte@msn.com, says, "Today, I received the latest issue of "Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse" - " I have a question about the wife of James Coffey and his wife, "Sarah Sumpter" Coffey. Can you tell me who her parents and grandparents were? I suspect that Sarah Sumpter was a granddaughter of either a John Sumpter or William Sumpter Jr. that left the Pretties or Preddy Creek community of Albemarle County, Virginia about the middle of the Revolutionary War, and relocated to what is now, Lenoir, NC - then part of old Burke County. John and William Sumpter were brothers to my XGreat Grandmother Ann Sumpter, as married my grandpa Thomas Land, who came to Beaver Creek in today's Wilkes County, NC around 1778, along with numerous other blood relatives like my Barlow's, Carlton's, Livingston's, Laxton's, Isbell's, Martin's, etc. - many of whom eventually moved on to places in SC, TN, KY, and MO. My recent research indicates an interesting connection between not only the early Coffey families of Globe and Lenoir (Watauga, Burke, Caldwell, Wilkes, Ashe, Alexander counties) but other early families like the Moores, Perkins, Boons, Pattersons, Dulas, Walkers, Storys, Barnes, McGees, Walshs, Fosters, etc. - many names that are to be found in KY and MO. These families seem to have left the Yadkin River Valley and Catawba River Valley around the early 1800's when land became available to Patriots of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and the availability of land that

resulted from treaties with various Indian groups. Question: Do you know of any other reasons for those Brushy Mountain settlers to have left their homes in NC for places in TN, KY and MO? I am also aware that some of the above families left old Orange County, Virginia (lived near the Blue Run Settlement alongside families like the Madisons, Meriwethers, Walkers, Lewis, Taylors, Jeffersons, Isbells, Todds, Livingstons, Barlows, Carltons, Laxtons, Redds, Sumpters, Paynes, Lands, etc. I am also thinking that your early Coffee/Coffey families were also living along Preddy Creek in old Louisa County (now Albemarle County) Virginia in the mid 1700's. If you have not done so, and in the interest of furthering your Coffey family research, recommend you obtain records from both Orange County, VA (i.e. Fredericksville Parish, Saint Martin's Parish, and old Road Orders) and for Albemarle County, Virginia. Note that Orange County was taken from Spotsylvania County in 1734. Note that I am in the process of tracing many of the above families back to their origins in old colonial Virginia when they first arrived in the mid 1600's."

Doug Land, Stafford, VirginiaPS How did so many Coffey's get on the Dawes Rolls? What evidence of Native American blood do you see within the Coffey Clan? Do you have any photographic evidence?

Jack Coffee answers;

I personally have not found the parents of Sarah Sumpter but, a file kept by the Mormans tells me that her parents were James Sumpter and Nancy Jinkins [sic] and that she married James Coffey on 10 Jul 1810 in Pulaski Co., KY. James Sumpter is said to have been the son of Capt. William Sumpter and his wife Judith Randall. Capt. William is said to have been the son of William Thomas Sumpter and his wife Elizabeth Patience Docle' Iveson. This Wm Thomas was allegedly born in

Histon, Cambridge, England in 1728. I do not always trust records like these because the lack any documentation of sources.

\* Linda Trout lftrout@yahoo.com is working on the following lineage and could use some help. She has;  
JAMES COFFEE (1) b. February 1843 in Burksville, KY, died in Jackson Co, TN, married JEANETTA TAYSE, born April 1858 in TN.

Children: of James and Jeanetta  
1. THOMAS COFFEE, b May 1884 KY, d. Jackson Co TN, Redhill Cem.  
2. ROBERT COFFEE, b Oct 12, 1880, d May 11, 1941 Jackson Co. TN, Redhill Cem.  
3. JONAH COFFEE, b July 25, 1883, Jackson Co TN, d Sept 10 1978 Jackson Co TN  
4. LEANNE COFFEE, b Feb 07, 1876, Jackson Co, d. January 18 1975 Jackson Co Redhill Cem  
5. SAMMIE COFFEE b JUNE 1882  
6. MARY COFFEE, b MARCH 1893  
7. SARAH COFFEE, b. APRIL 1895  
8. RUBY COFFEE, b Sept. 1897  
9. ADER COFFEE, b May 1886  
Fred Coffey says; "I looked over my census search notes, and I see one "James" that I could NOT figure out, and this James is a good fit if we assume that the birth year of 1848 as suggested in the 1880 census is correct:

In the 1860 census for Russell County, KY, there is a James Coffey, age 12, living in a household headed by Martha Coffey, age 32. And there is another son, William, age 11. Then in the 1870 census Martha has apparently remarried, and is now Martha Dexter age 42. Son James is now 22, and son William is now 21. And there is now also a Sarah Lawson in the household.

Can anyone tell me who was Martha's husband? How did she become a Dexter? What happened to James and William?



## WHO ARE THEIR ANCESTORS?"

\* My name is Hollis A Walker. I am interested in getting the newsletter. My great grandmother is Lilly Belle Coffee Walker, granddaughter of Rich and Sarah Greathouse Coffee. Email walker\_hollis@yahoo.com. Can anyone help Hollis?

\* Kathy Wommack, kmackmidland@gmail.com, says; "I am searching for information on George Washington Jewel or Jewell, b 1797-1803 in KY, who married Elizabeth Coffey/Coffee, (b 1802, Burke, NC), daughter of Ambrose Coffey (b.10 OCT 1762, Albemarle, VA) and Mildred "Millie" Moore (b.31 MAR 1770, Albemarle, VA), sister of Holland Coffey of Red River, TX. The earliest record I have of George Washington Jewel is from the Guardians and Orphans Court of Greene, TN in July 1809, when he was an orphan of 10 yrs, bound out to Stephen Porter. Census reports indicate he was born in KY, but I have not been able to locate any birth records, any record of his parents, or how he came to TN.

For Ambrose's line I have:  
Rev. James b. 1729 m. Elizabeth Cleveland,  
John Coffey b. 1700 m. Jane Graves,  
Edward Coffey m. Ann Powell,  
Any information related to this time frame and section of the Coffey/Coffee line that might trace to Ambrose or his daughter Elizabeth would be of interest and very much appreciated. I have hit a brick wall trying to trace the Jewel/Jewell line. Also, please inform me of any errors discovered in my ancestry.com tree."

\* Chris Coffey <chriscoffey48@gmail.com> writes; "Just a short note on my consultation at the University of Michigan Cancer Center. They didn't tell me anything more that I didn't know already, although they will recommend

a bone marrow transplant. What time frame, not a clue. The thing that I have is Myelodysplastic Syndrome. This cancer thing will keep me from being at Kentucky this year, I would like to find, if there is any connection between Ruben B. Coffey and Marvel.

\* Jack Coffee <jack.coffee@gmail.com> says; "Vincent and Polly Garner are interesting figures in Ambrose' property sale.

I attempted to contact Harold Elrod but he had already passed away.

I'm convinced that my Lilburn Coffee's mother came from Ambrose' line and maybe that Ally Coffey Mills was his mother. But, if he was a legitimate Mills, I wonder why he would have taken the Coffey surname.

Who knows!?!?

**CURRENTS IN THE STREAM**

Nasturtiums For Grandma Minnie K. Harding, mkharding@communitynet.org, has a new book out. It can be purchased at Amazon.com for \$6.99 for the digital version or \$16.00 paperback. I have the digital version.

=====

All who are interested in the history of Caldwell County, NC and its people, I recommend you contact my cousin, John Hawkins at: Caldheritmus@aol.com ..... John is the Director of the Caldwell Heritage Museum in Lenoir, NC, and is likely a cousin to you via your Coffey family. From Doug Land.

=====

Chesley Coffey

By Jerry Coffee j.coff@verizon.net  
You can trace the migration route of the descendants of Chesley Coffey born in 1755 in Prince Edward Co. Virginia and

died in 1818 in Maury co. Tennessee. In the 1770s, the Coffey's of Prince Edward County Virginia moved to Wilkes County North Carolina. In 1780, Chesley Coffey (jr) married Margaret Baldwin and in 1785, they moved from North Carolina to Green County (Adair Co.) Kentucky with their 5-year-old son, Nathan, who was named for Chesley's brother.

In 1810, many of the Coffey family were living in Columbia Town, Adair County Kentucky. That included the older Nathan and Joel who were brothers of Chesley Coffey. In 1802, Chesley and Margaret lived near the Cabin Fork of Russell Creek in Adair County. Chesley and Margaret's son, Nathan, married Mary Elizabeth Gilbreath, about 1804 in Maury County Tennessee. Chesley Coffey died in Maury County Tennessee and Margaret is buried beside him in an unmarked grave.

Logan McMillon Coffey was the son of Nathan and nephew of Chesley Coffey. Logan M. Coffey was born in Adair County Kentucky in 1809 and moved to Jackson County Alabama in 1837 where he married Mary Elizabeth Ragland. Logan M. and Mary Coffey moved to Lavaca County Texas about 1848. In 1865, Logan M. Coffey was murdered while hauling freight from the port of Brownsville to Lavaca County Texas and his body was never found. L.M. Coffey was a freighter during the civil war and was murdered by deserters who were common in that area of Texas.

Logan M. and Mary Coffey's son was Thomas Logan Coffee who was the range boss on the Turkey Track Ranch in the upper Texas panhandle. The colorful cattleman Rich Coffey came to Kimball County Texas in 1855 and settled in what later became Coleman County Texas in 1857. He combines herds with John S. Chisum, Sam Coggin and Robert Clay Parks in Coleman and Brown County Texas. R.C. Parks was my great grandmother Pamela (Wyatt) Gilmer's

brother-in-law.

Rich Coffey was Logan Coffey's cousin. (Note - The Chesley Coffey discussed here is the one we usually refer to as Chesley Jr. We originally considered him a son of Chesley Sr but is now considered as the son of Edward Coffey jr. Bonnie)

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Bennie Loftin, bennieloftin@windstream.net, forwarded the following to me and I thought it was hilarious.

Rick Miller, rmiller21@woh.rr.com, wrote: I thought you would enjoy this. I got it from Don Hedrick, Dpryor999@aol.com, who is related to me six or seven different ways. His ggGrandfather, Thomas Coffey, was the brother of my gggGrandmother, Mary Matilda Coffey.

Thomas Coffey

Thomas Coffey and Martha Jane Shockley according to what I have, had nine children. I descend from them from their daughter Margaret Jane Coffey. Margaret was my great grand mother and she was the meanest person I have ever known. She lived one month short of 100 and died in 1972. I was 30 years old. When I was a teenager she would sit on her front porch and try a hit any child of any age with her walking stick. If you got close enough she would spit snuff at you. She had good aim. In 1954 my great grandfather, her husband died. The last few years of his life she would fix him a pot of oatmeal, made from water so it would keep, and left it on the stove for him to eat. Their daughters and granddaughters at times would go to their house and fix him a meal. No one knew what she ate. At her funeral her children asked the funeral home to tie a large strap around the casket to make sure she stayed inside. They also said that neither God or the Devil wanted her and that's why she lived so long.

The legend of Thomas Coffey started earlier. Thomas was of course the father

of Margaret. His first problem was he was born a Coffey. In Grainger County, it is said, the reason so many Coffey's intermarried was that only a Coffey could tolerate a Coffey. One of Thomas' cousins beat her husband to death with a bridal and another whose name was Elvira was called Hellfirer because of her temper. Thomas was redheaded and always angry about something and had the reputation like his cousin Elvira. My great grandfather said the entire family was crazy. There must be more to his story but all I have gotten from descendants is the same line. "Meanest man in Grainger County".

The moral to this story is beware when your wife starts fixing oatmeal. Don

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#### LUNA GENEVA COFFEY

Kim Wilson, Lenoir, NC, 4putt@bellsouth.net, asks Jack Coffee; "My name is Kim Wilson and I am trying to find information about my great-grandmother. Her maiden name was Luna Geneva Coffey. She did not talk about her childhood very much and the only information my grandmother has is that her father was named DeCalb Coffey and she grew up in Foscoe, N.C. Her birth date was Aug. 19, 1897 and she died Oct. 7, 1989. She married John Vernon Beane at the age of 14. I found an entry on your blog for Joseph DeCalb Coffey who was born in Shulls Mill in 1863. I am wondering if this could possibly be her father, though there is no mention of her in the blog. There is an entry about two sons, Luther and Ora, who were born before his marriage in 1899 to Lutittia. The blog says the mother to these two sons is unknown. The birth date and place of birth/death would fit, and it seems DeCalb was not a common name. Do you have any more information about him or do you have any advice for me on how to research my great grandmother's heritage?"

Jack Coffee, jack.coffee@gmail.com, sent

Kim and me the following;

I thought the information I gave her might be useful to either or both of you in case of future questions about this family. As best I can tell, Luna's mother had to be a Holsclaw.

The 1900 Boone, Watauga Co. census places her in the household J. W. Holsclaw and wife Martha Williams, and names "Luner Geneva Coffey" as their granddaughter. I know Martha's maiden name because 81 yr old Stephen Williams, also in the 1900 household, was named as J. W.'s father in law.

J. W. (John or Johnson Wesley?) was born in 1839 in NC and married Martha c1866.

In 1870 Boone, Watauga Co., Johnson Holsclaw, age 29, lived with his wife Martha, age 27, in Boone. They had a daughter named Ellen, age 4 and a son Stephen, age 2.

In 1880 Boone, Watauga Co., Wesley Holsclaw, age 40, lived with his wife Martha M., age 37, and daughter Ellen, age 14, son Steven L., age 12, and son Mark E., age 10.

The 1890 census does not exist.

In 1900 Boone, Watauga, J. W. Holsclaw, age 60, lived with his wife Martha M., age 57. With them was Bynum G. Holsclaw, a grandson, age 7 and granddaughter Luner Geneva Coffey, born Aug. 1897. Also in the household was Martha's father, Stephen Williams.

According to Caldwell Co. marriage records, Luna Geneva Coffey married John Vernon Beane in 1913. They had Edgar Grady, born c1923; Jay Garton, born 1926, died 1998, and Gertrude Leola, born ?, died 1967.

Gertrude Leola Beane married Hardy Daniel Coffey in Caldwell Co. in 1929. Hardy Daniel was born Apr. 12, 1909 in the Globe to Joel Partee and Lettie Mamie Pearl Tolbert.

Because of the missing 1890 census, we don't know if Johnson Wesley and Martha

had any other daughters. But, it's likely they did over the long years they were married.

It's not clear to me if Bynum Holsclaw was a son of a son or a daughter who perhaps had him out of wedlock and gave him her maiden name. I haven't found any later information about him.

I have seen other genealogies for this family that reports a daughter named Celia born to Johnson and Martha in 1870 and alleged to have married Adam Jasper Morrison. However, there is not a Celia in the 1880 household. Having said that however, I did find a death certificate for a Stephen (there's that name again) Columbus Morrison who died in Iredell Co. on Oct. 3, 1973. His parents were named as Adam Jerry Morrison and Cecelia Holsclaw. His wife was Mary Beth Craven. I also found a death certificate for Hattie Morrison Cameron, born 1892 to Adam and Cecilia Holsclaw Morrison, died 1967 in Gastonia, Gaston Co.

But, bottom line is that I believe Luna's mother to have been a Holsclaw. Based on the fact that I have not found another daughter for Johnson and Martha, I would have to go with their daughter Ellen as the mother of Luna. But, you might want to also investigate Cecelia further. I have not found a death certificate for her or Adam.

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**GOOD NEWS**

Ellie Betts <elbetts04@yahoo.com> writes; "After almost 3 years of research, digging, documenting, pestering and imposing on people I just rec'd an email from my chapter regent that the additional information I provided to them was acceptable! They wanted further proof of the connections between 2 generations. I will receive my National DAR Number on Feb 4th and attend the Feb 23rd meeting of the Samuel Doak Chapter, Morristown, TN. Whew for a while there I was doubtful.

What a chore to prove your lineage before basic official records were maintained. A Coffee cousin, Bonnie Culley, had recently suggested in an email that if the DAR would accept my proving a brother then I'd prove my line and it pretty much turned out that way. My November visit to the Carthage archives and the Deed Records office provided the final documents that answered the DAR's questions. My final application and documents package was close to 2 1/2 inches thick!

Many thanks and my heartfelt appreciation to my patient husband Dean, Jean Ayers, Carol Dunn, and Sue Petty & John Wagoner at the Carthage TN archives. Also thanks to Linda Lamberson Himpel and Bonnie Culley for answering my emails and Carl Lamberson for being a great companion in my search! Proud Great great great great great-granddaughter of Lawrence Lamberson.

**DNA PROJECT:**

From: Elizabeth O'Donoghue/Ross <elizabethod@eircom.net>. (I think the Coffee/ys should be interested in this. It could get our ancestors back to Ireland. I'm hoping that Fred can attend the convention and explain this better. It's really hard to sum up all that we have heard from these people. BC)

Dear Fred Coffey,

We wish to draw your attention to the recently launched "Munster Irish DNA Project" at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/MunsterIrish/>.

This project seeks to research the patterns of haplotypes in Munster surnames associated with its pre-Norman occupants. About 150 such surnames (plus variants) have been identified from The Genealogy of Corca Laidhe, The Topographical Poems of John O'Dubhagain and Giolla Na Naomh O'Huidhrin, Eoghanacht Genealogies from

The Book of Munster and other similar sources.

The annals and ancient pedigrees relating to the first millennium A.D. population of Munster suggest much common ancestry among the kings or chieftains of the peoples of this age. Although the ancestral haplotypes known as Irish Types II and III support such claims to a degree, yDNA testing has made apparent that some of the genealogical tracts are inaccurate. Researching through this project will help us determine the extent of the relationships in these ancestral genealogies.

Since it is expected that other haplogroups such as I2a were present in Munster in the first millennium, the project is clearly not limited to R-M269 (R1b1a2). Thus anyone with a listed surname who can trace his origins to Munster or belongs to Irish Type II, Type III or the subclade R-L362 is welcome to join the project. If there is a question, the Administrators will review the applicants' haplotypes to determine if their presence in the project would be of use to them and helpful to the project's goals.

We acknowledge some overlap with the aims of several existing projects, particularly that of the Irish Type III Project, <http://www.irishtype3dna.org/index.php>, the Corca Laidhe Project, [http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Corca\\_Laidhe/](http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Corca_Laidhe/), the R-L21 South Irish Project, <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/R-L21SouthIrish/default.aspx>, and the Eóganacht Septs Project, <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Eo'ganacht%20septs/>. In such cases we seek to work cooperatively with these projects in the mutual interest of furthering the study of Munster genealogy, and we will give all due recognition to information provided by others and appropriate web links. All constructive comment is welcome and will be considered.

Eligible members of the Coffey Surname Project can join the project by going to [https://my.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?group=Munster\\_Irish](https://my.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?group=Munster_Irish) or using the Join Projects link on their personal page. We note that your Northern USA Group are South Irish and are all definitely eligible. We hope you will extend this invitation to your members to join our Munster Irish DNA Project, and we look forward to working with you.

Best Wishes,  
Elizabeth O'Donoghue Administrator  
Dr Finbar O'Mahony Co-administrator  
Nigel McCarthy Co-administrator

Fred responded; s"FYI, I have also been working with the "Corca Laidhe" project, within which "Coffey" (Ua Cobhthaigh) is one of the known ancient names. There our recent focus has been to look at a published genealogy leading down from the Corca Laidhe, and try to trace it down to living men with the name "Coffey". Although we don't really know how solid that genealogy is, we have indeed been able to find living "Coffey" men who appear to be descended from it. The trick, so far unsuccessful, has been to persuade one to give us a DNA sample!

Best wishes, Fred

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From Ancestry.com

1. COFFEY of Munster  
From Irish Pedigrees; or the Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation by John O'Hart  
« Clancy | lthe Line Pedigrees | Book Contents | Needham »  
This family were dynasts or chief lords of that portion of the ancient territory of Corca Luighe,\* now called Barryroe-east, and Barryroe-west, in the county Cork. In Irish the family name is O'Cobhthaigh; anglicised O'Coffey, O'Cowhig, and, more lately, Coffey, Coffy, and Coffee.
2. 74. Donoch Mór; son of Cobthach

Fionn, who is No. 73 on "The Line of Ithe," ante.

3. 75. Donall Mór: his son.
4. 76. Maccraith: his son.
5. 77. Conchobar (or Conor): his son.
6. 78. Maghnus (or Maighneas): his son.
7. 79. Conor (2): his son.
8. 80. Maithan Dall: his son.
9. 81. Cobthach (2): his son.
10. 82. Dermod: his son.
11. 83. Fergal: his son.
12. 84. Donoch: his son.
13. 85. Aodh (or Hugh): his son.
14. 86. Maghnus (2): his son.
15. 87. Conor (3): his son.
16. 88. Niocholl: his son.
17. 89. Walter: his son.
18. 90. Cobtach (3): his son.
19. 91. Teige: his son; had a brother named Niocholl, who was the ancestor of MacNicol.
20. 92. Olioll(3): son of Teige.
21. 93. Dermod (2): his son.
22. 94. Donall (2): his son.
23. 95. Maghnus (3): his son.
24. 96. Cobthach (4): his son.
25. 97. Conor (4): his son.
26. 98. Maolpadraic: his son.
27. 99. Ceannfaolla: his son.
28. 100. Aodh (2): his son.
29. 101. Cumumhan: his son.
30. 102. Muireadach: his son.
31. 103. Cathal (or Charles): his son.
32. 104. Donall (3): his son.
33. 105. Brian: his son. 100. Murtoch: his son.
34. 107. Crimthann: his son.
35. 108. Saortuille: his son.
36. 109. Niochall: his son.
37. 110. Aodh (3): his son.
38. 111. Cathal (2): his son.
39. 112. Donoch (2): his son.
40. 113. Felim: his son.
41. 114. Teige (2): his son.
42. 115. Cathal (3): his son.
43. 116. Donall (4): his son.
44. 117. Aodh (4): his son.

45. 118. Cormac: his son.
46. 119. Aodh (or Hugh): his son.
47. 120. Cathal (4): his son.
48. 121. Teige (3): his son; living in 1657.
49. 122. Shane: his son; living in 1701; held the lands of Muckcross (at Killarney) under Charles MacCarthy Mór, from A.D. 1693.
50. 123. Dermod (or Darby): his son; buried in Muckcross Abbey, where his tomb exists.
51. 124. Edmond: his son; living in 1807.
52. 125. Edmond (2): his son; died in 1841. This Edmond had an elder brother named William, and a younger brother named John -----, both of whom died unmarried.
53. 126. Edward Lees Coffey: son of Edmond (2); living in America in 1881, and had a family. This Edward had four brothers--1. James-Charles of Dublin, d. 1880; 2. John-William; 3. David; 4. Henry.
54. « Clancy | Ithe Line Pedigrees | Book Contents | Needham »

#### 55. NOTES

\* Corca Luighe: This was a territory in Carbery, in the west of the county Cork; and was so called because principally inhabited by families of the Lugadian Race, descendants of Luighaidh, son of Ithe, uncle of Milesius of Spain, and the first Milesian discoverer of Ireland. Corcaluighe ("corcach:" Irish, swampy ground) extended from Bandon to Crookhaven and to the river of Kenmare; and was anciently possessed by the O'Baires [O'Barrys], O'Coffeys, O'Deas, O'Driscolls, O'Fihillys, O'Flains, O'Heas, O'Henegans, O'Learys, etc.

The city of "Cork" is by some derived from the Irish word corcach, abovementioned; because it is built on a low marsh island, formed by the branches of the river Lee.

**DOCUMENTS GALORE**

JOSHUA COFFEE  
By Jerry Coffee

Joshua Coffee enlisted in Capt. John Henry Damron's Spy Co., Lt. Col. Peter C. Hardeman's 1st Texas Cavalry Battalion, Arizona Brigade, C.S.A. In 1862, the independent battalion was raised at Columbus in Colorado County, 60 miles west of Houston Texas. The unit was to be a regiment of the Arizona Brigade and was to be part of the second attempt to secure the Arizona - New Mexico Territory. The regiment never raised more than 200 men in Colorado County so in the fall of 1862, it was marched to Fannin County Texas to gain troop strength with men from Brig. Gen. Henry E. McCulloch's 14th Brigade of the Home Guard. Lt. Col. Hardeman's battalion never raised more than 300 in Fannin County. In October 1863, the battalion was combined with Col. Trezevant C. Hawpe's 31st Texas Cavalry Regiment, C.S.A. that had recently returned to Dallas from Missouri.

In July 1863, Capt. Damron detailed his brother - in- law Pvt. Coffee and 24 men on picket duty at Colbert's Ferry on the Red River, north of Sherman Texas. Pvt. Coffee and the pickets were left behind when Lt. Col. Hardeman's Battalion was marched to Doaksville in Indian Territory where it was combined with Hawpe's 31st Texas Cavalry Regiment in Brig. Gen. Richard M. Gano's 5th Texas Cavalry Brigade, C.S.A. The 31st/1st Texas Cavalry Regiment fought hard battles at Poison Springs and Massard Prairie Arkansas and at the second battle of Cabin Creek, the last battle fought in Indian Territory.

In June 1864, Pvt. Coffee and the pickets at Colbert's Ferry were relieved and transferred to Maj. J.R. Diamond's Brush Battalion in Col. James

D. Bourland's Frontier Regiment, C.S.A. In January 1865, the Brush Battalion was sent to Gainesville Texas to obtain mounts and set up a western defensive line against Comanche Indians who were raiding into North Texas from Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Maj. Diamond's Brush Battalion never obtained suitable cavalry mounts so they returned to their bivouac at Oxford Lake, 3 miles northwest of Farmersville, in Collin County Texas and remained there until the war was over three months later.

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FLORENCE, Alabama  
Walmart fact-finding mission  
Officials tour cemetery near proposed  
Walmart site

By Robert Palmer, Staff Writer  
robert.palmer@TimesDaily.com.

Deep in a wooded, tick-infested area about a half mile west of Cloverdale Road (Florence AL) is a series of depressions in the ground that have been identified as the final resting places of slaves who worked on Gen. John Coffee's plantation before the Civil War.

A group of clergy, historians and Florence City Council members met with Walmart contractors there earlier this week to orient themselves to graves' locations and the site of a proposed new Walmart store.

"We are here fact-finding, and we want to let other folks see it," Councilman Sam Pendleton said.

"My concern is that we do something to honor the area," said the Rev. Cedrick Malone, of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. "We want to let people know this is not just a business site. It's a historical site."

Walmart has applied to the city to build a shopping center immediately north of the burial site, which is a short distance

from the antebellum Coffee family cemetery.

Most of the graves that have been identified are near the edge of a ravine. Brad Dethero, of Geo Source Engineers, said he has walked the property and found all that may remain of burial sites. Two of them have markers as evidence they were tended at one time, but nothing remains of the inscriptions on the stones, which show signs of vandalism.

Dethero whose company is contracted with Walmart, said most of the land on the property was used for row crops until recent years. The graves appear to have been on the edges of the cropland.

Robert Steen, president of the city's historical board, said the board will partner with Walmart to restore the site if the company goes through with plans to build the shopping center.

He said Walmart would pay the cost of the restoration, which could eventually include designation on the Register of Historic Places.

General Coffee was one of the founding fathers of Florence. He served in Andrew Jackson's army and took part in the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815, which was at the end of the War of 1812. He also took part in Jackson's campaigns against the American Indians in south Alabama that helped pave the way for the tragic Trail of Tears removal.

Coffee died in 1833 and is buried, along with a number of family members, in the walled cemetery off Cloverdale Road.

The clergy members said they feel assured that, should Wal-Mart build, the graves would be preserved.

Before leaving the gravesites, the Rev. Charlie Burgess said a prayer asking that those who rest there be protected.

"Whether we want to admit it or not, we are inextricably linked," said Tom McKnight, president of the Tennessee Valley Historical Society,

Nearby residents have been vocal in

their opposition to Walmart building a store near their homes. Many of the complaints have focused on concerns about increased traffic. Council members have said they want to review traffic count numbers from Cloverdale Road before determining whether to approve the development. Most expect those counts to be available in late April at the earliest.

( This story was sent by Leonard Corbaley, corb32@sbcglobal.net. There were also aerial photos attached.)

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**FAMILY REUNIONS**

**RUCKER & DALTON REUNION**

Dalton and Rucker gathering will meet at 10 a.m. on May 19 at the Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church in Thorn Grove, TN. Archie Dalton, adalton478@hotmail.com sent the following instructions. Cross Clinch Mountain (coming from Morristown) on US 25E North. Halfway down the mountain toward Tazewell, take road (TN 31??) to the right. Church is about 2 miles on left.

**QUERY**

Clover Gray, xrosedreamerx@yahoo.com is looking for information on the following line.

Great grandparents, Milton I Coffey & Velma Viola Coffey  
Grandparents Wade Stanley Coffey and Dorothy Elizabeth Griffith Coffey  
Mother, Mary Joanne Coffey Tayman  
All help appreciated.



# COFFEY COUSINS CONVENTION 2012

## LAKE CUMBERLAND STATE PARK, RUSSELL CO. KY

### APRIL 26 - 28, 2012

### RESERVATIONS INFORMATION

Lodge Reservations: 1-800-325-1709  
LakeCumberland@KY.gov  
4565 State Park Rd., Jamestown, KY  
42629



Be sure to say you are with  
**Coffey Cousins.**

Our meeting room will be at **Pumpkin  
Creek Center** and you may want to  
be near this.

#### ROOM RATES

Single & double rooms are \$59 on  
Thursday & \$71.96 on Friday &  
Saturday - all + tax.

They also have cottages & campsites if  
you are interested in these ask!

#### GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Rita Johnson has agreed to lead  
a workshop for us. Time has not  
been determined yet. It will be  
determined later. Place will be at  
the Pumpkin Chreek Center which  
will serve as our meeting room.

Bring your problems. Have you  
hit a dead end or need more  
documentation. Possibly Rita can  
make suggestion on how to handle  
your problem or more places to  
look.

We look forward to Fred Coffey  
telling us more about the Irish  
Genealogy program on page 12, if  
he can make the convention.



Banquet will be buffet style and there will be several meat and vegitable choices.

Number wishing to eat at the Banquet @ \$20.00 each ..... \$.....  
(This includes tax & tips.)

Please write names of attendees on back or separate sheet of paper so name tags can be prepared.  
Also make sure your name, address and phone number is included.

Send check or money orders for banquet to:

Danny K. Coffey  
P.O. Box 11  
Jamestown, KY 42629

Submit questions to Danny at  
coffey@duo-county.com  
phone; 270-343-3294

**COMPUTER NEWS**

COFFEY COUSINS web site, <http://www.thecoffeycousins.org/coffeycousins.html>.  
DNA web site: [www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA](http://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](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA)

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

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.

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

FIND A GRAVE (free) <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&GRid=67410706&CRid=2371259&>

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**First Class Mail**

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