



COFFEY COUSINS' CLEARINGHOUSE



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Coffey

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This is the inaugural of what I hope will be the revival of the Coffey Cousins' Newsletter. The format may change in time as I and others who contribute figure out exactly what we are doing!

I have already been in touch with many of our Coffey Cousins' asking for their opinion of my attempt to revive the Clearinghouse newsletter that we have become so used to receiving from Bonnie Culley on a quarterly basis. The majority – so far – have elected to receive the newsletter electronically.

Some of you may not know the history of the newsletter. It was begun in 1981 by Leonard Coffey. Leonard published from then until his death in 1989. His family then chose Bonnie to take over responsibility for editing and publishing, which she continued just recently when health problems began to catch up with both her and husband Jim.

After awhile, Bonnie asked me if I would attempt to revive it. I agreed so we could all maintain the friendships and information exchanges built over the last 30+ years. I am hopeful the annual Coffey Cousins' Convention will not die. If you can possibly make it this year, please go. You will find the details at my blogsite found at:

<http://coffeycousins.blogspot.com/p/2013-coffey-cousins.html>

Dead End Roads

Fred Coffey received an interesting phone call from Steve Prather (ssprath@yahoo.com). Steve called Fred because there was a "Fred Coffey" in Steve's wife's ancestry and wondered if our Fred could be connected. Steve mentioned his wife's mother was Mary Coffey, born in the early 1920's, in Bloomington, Indiana. Fred found her in the 1930 census within a couple of minutes of their call, because there was only one Mary Coffey in Bloomington, and the census showed she had a father and a brother both named "Fred"! Now Steve also wants to know if he and his wife are related? Steve's great grandmother was Anna Coffey who married a Denny.

WHAT FRED FOUND FOR STEVE

You and your wife have interesting families, with at least three "Coffey" connections between you!

My source: Much of what I offer below comes from "The Edward Coffey Project" managed by Jack Coffee. Jack has everything he knows about Edward and his descendants on a DVD, covering more than 30,000 people.

First, you mentioned your mother's grandmother, Anna Coffey, who married a Denney. That one was easy, because Anna is in Jack's project. Here's her ancestry:

- (1) Edward Coffey (abt 1670 - abt 20 Nov 1716)
& Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) John Coffey (BET 1699 AND 1700 - BET JAN 1775 AND FEB 1775)
& Jane Graves (abt 1708 - 1792)
- (3) James Coffey (4 Jul 1729 - Oct 1786)
& Elizabeth Cleveland (Feb 1727 - BET 1826 AND 1827)
- (4) Archelus Coffey (abt 1755 - BET 1783 AND 1784)
& Eleanor Wade (abt 1755 -)
- (5) John Waid Coffey (abt 1788 - abt 1834)
& Mary Harbert (30 Oct 1781 - 19 Apr 1853)
- (6) James Harvey Coffey (6 Aug 1806 - 13 Feb 1855)
& Anna Eliza Graham (1812 - 1899)
- (7) John Waid Coffey (13 Jan 1841 - 15 Apr 1922)
& Elizabeth Matilda Persinger (7 Nov 1842 - 18 Jan 1939)
- 8) Anna Eliza Coffey (6 Sep 1876 - 21 Mar 1942)
& Thomas M. Denny (6 Jul 1878 - 14 Aug 1944)

Using census and other ancestry.com sources, I worked back until I once again connected with Jack's Edward Project.

- (1) Edward Coffey (abt 1670 - abt 20 Nov 1716)

- & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) John Coffey (BET 1699 AND 1700 - BET JAN 1775 AND FEB 1775)
& Jane Graves (abt 1708 - 1792)
- (3) Reuben Coffey (abt 1744 - 1818)
& Sarah Scott (abt 1750 - Oct 1837)
- (4) James D. Coffey (23 Oct 1786 - 27 Oct 1868)
& Hannah Alloway Strange (18 Feb 1790 - 14 Dec 1871)
- (5) Archelaus Coffey (1 Mar 1810 - 27 Dec 1900)
& Rachael Wilson (abt 1815 - 3 Feb 1885)
- (6) James D. Coffey (abt 1838 -)
& Martha J. _____ (abt 1841 -)
- (7) John Coffey (abt 1863 -)
& Laura Anna Light
- (8) Frederick Orville Coffey
& Evron ?
- 9) Mary Lee Coffey (abt 1921
- (9) Frederick Orville Coffey Jr. (abt 1922

Now, in the above, see one James D Coffey, who was indicated to have married one "Martha J". And some of the Ancestry sites said that "Martha J" was also a "Coffey". And THIS is her ancestry:

- (1) Edward Coffey (abt 1670 - abt 20 Nov 1716)
- & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) John Coffey (BET 1699 AND 1700 - BET JAN 1775 AND FEB 1775)
& Jane Graves (abt 1708 - 1792)
- (3) Reuben Coffey (abt 1744 - 1818)
& Sarah Scott (abt 1750 - Oct 1837)
- (4) Elijah Coffey (11 Mar 1779 - 3 Sep 1863)
& Mary Abby Dyer (17 May 1787 -)
- (5) Albert M. Coffey (7 Dec 1815 -)
& Caroline Hall (abt 1823 -)
- (6) Martha J. Coffey (abt 1843 -)

f you study this a bit, you will see that Martha J Coffey and James D Coffey were second cousins. (Other Coffey families have FIRST COUSIN marriages - but I don't think many of us suffered serious genetic defects because of it!)

Now, Martha J and James D are both in Jack's Edward Project – but Jack just didn't pick up that they may have married each other! I put some effort in trying to confirm that this was likely correct, and I'm pretty well convinced it is certainly plausible, and probably true, per the following:

James is in the 1850 census with HIS parents in Richland Township, Monroe, County, Indiana. And Martha is in the 1850 census with HER parents in Franklin Township, Owen County, Indiana. These two townships are only about 17 miles apart. And in the 1880 census the married couple of James and Martha, with two

children, are in Clay Township, Owen County, Indiana. And Clay is exactly between Richland and Franklin townships. Given dates and birth locations for parents (1880 census), I think there is little doubt that they were indeed second cousins.

So what does this mean regarding possible incest between yourself and your wife? The MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) for you and your wife is John Coffey, the son of the patriarch Edward. You'll want to carefully check my math, but I believe that means you and your wife are double seventh cousins, once removed. If the two of you had kids, I don't think their genetics would have suffered too much.

You might want to buy a copy of Jack's DVD, it will have a lot of biographical notes about the people in each of your family lines.

A LATER NOTE

Actually, Jack's Edward Project suggests that Steve and his wife may have FOUR links back to the original Edward. Some researchers think that the Elizabeth Cleveland (1727-1826) who married (3) James Coffey may have been a granddaughter of the SENIOR Edward Coffey. Here's what Jack has to say in his Project Notes:

"Cleveland researchers believe that Edward (THAT'S EDWARD JUNIOR) was the father of Elizabeth because her mother Grace eventually married Edward (JUNIOR) Coffey. Not really a good basis for believing that. If birth years are close to accurate, Grace would have been about 10 yrs old when she became pregnant with Elizabeth."

"The book, *A century of Wayne County, Kentucky, 1800-1900* by Augusta Phillips Johnson, page 9, reads: 'Reuben, Lewis Russell, and James Coffey were sons of the Rev. James Coffey and Elizabeth Cleveland, sister of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, who was with Shelby at King's Mountain.' "

I didn't show this line to Steve, because I didn't want to explain it - and Jack's notes don't exactly make a convincing case that it is true.

Plus my own line (through Edward Junior) is beset with uncertainty as well, because of the question whether Edward Jr. had a son called Chesley, who may (or may not) have been my ancestor. Everything about Edward Junior and his children is a confusing mess.

Steve, welcome to Coffey Family confusion! At least our DNA says we all belong together, even though we don't actually know how to assemble the early puzzle pieces. Fred

* Rosemary Thibodeaux rosemary2459@gmail.com says:

I am recently trying to trace my family tree. My great grandmother is William Ann Coffee (1870-1961). I am getting conflicting info on William Joel's (1826-1885) father (John R, Cleveland, James Day).

Rosemary got the following answer from Fred Coffey. "I'm also copying this note to Jack Coffee, because I see that his "Edward Project" does have a genealogy that includes both Rosemary's great grandmother (yes, her name seems to have been "William"!) and Alan Coffey's grandfather:"

- (1) Edward Coffey (abt 1670 - abt 20 Nov 1716)
& Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) Edward Coffey (abt 1700 - aft 1774)
& Grace Cleveland (1 Sep 1716 -)
- 3) Jessy Cleveland Coffey
& Nancy Alexander
- (4) Cleveland Coffey
& Martha Brown
- (5) Joel William Coffey (15 Apr 1826 - 13 Sep 1885)¹
& Elizabeth Ann Moore (abt 1833 -)
- (6) John James Coffey (abt 1851 -)
& Martha Virginia Epperson (abt 1851 - abt 1899)
- (7) William Ann Coffey (abt 1871 -)
- (7) Joel William Coffey (abt 1874 -)
& Dessie C. _____ (abt 1885 -)
- (8) Hubert D., Coffey (abt 1906 -)

I'll let Jack comment on how solid he thinks this line might be. (Rosemary might want to buy his CD, since it includes her ancestry?)

By the way, I think it would be potentially very informative if we could find another male descendant of Joel William Coffee (1826-1885) for DNA testing.

* Ellen Hoener is working on James Madison Coffey & wife Catherine Quisenberry of Christina Co. KY and Washington Co. IL. If you can help her, email her at eh.mh2@verizon.net

DOCUMENTS GALORE

JOHN BOONE (Sept. 19, 1789-Nov. 22, 1837)

The following excerpts were taken from:

“The Heritage of Caldwell County North Carolina,” Vol. I. 1983, p264-265

John Boone served as Burke County's 23rd Sheriff from 1832 to 1837 and had two popular 'claims to fame.' The first came with the notion that he was directly related to the great frontiersman Daniel Boone. John's paternal grandfather Israel Boone was the brother of Daniel Boone, therefore making John Boone a great nephew of Daniel Boone. His second 'claim to fame perhaps one he would have gladly turned down, was his term of sheriff happened during the time of the well-known hanging of Frankie Silvers.

John was born September 19, 1789 to parents Jonathan Boone and Susannah Nixon who were married in Rowan County in 1773. John had six other siblings; Thomas, Rachel, Jeptha, Mary, Elanor, and Jemima. The family moved to Burke County (now part of Caldwell) and then on to the Mulberry Community. These lands included much of what is now the Federal Boone Fork Recreation Area in the Mulberry Community.

Reports indicate that Sheriff John Boone served during the War of 1812 in the Fourteenth Company (detached from the Third and part of the First Burke County Regiment), under Captain Kenneth McKinsey and First Lieutenant Jesse Brevard; Eight Regiment, under Nathan Horton, (Lieutenant Colonel Commandant), Merritt Burgin (First Major), and Samuel Davidson (Second Major and first cousin to Burke County High Sheriff during 1786-1788, James Davidson); all under the command of Thomas Brown, Major General.

John's father, Jonathan Boone, Sr. was heavily involved in the old Yadkin Baptist Church where he served as an elder, clerk and deacon. Jonathan Boone Sr. and his brother Jessie owned hundreds of acres on and around Husband Creek in the Mulberry Community. Jonathan (Sheriff John's father), Jessie, Elizabeth and Sarah were children of Israel Boone (Sheriff John's grandfather), a brother of Daniel Boone was born May 9, 1726 in Burks Co., Pennsylvania, and died on June 26, 1756 at the age of 30. Israel was married on December 31, 1747 to an unknown Indian woman, making Sheriff John Boone a quarter Indian. Israel's brothers and sisters (Sheriff John's great uncles and aunts) were: Sarah, Squire Jr, Jonathan, Elizabeth, Daniel, Mary, George, Edward, and Hannah; all children of Squire Boone Sr. and Sarah Morgan (Sheriff John's great grandparents. Due to Israel's untimely death, Jonathan, then age two and Jesse then, age four were raised by their grandparents and Daniel Boone and his wife.

Sheriff John Boone died in office on November 22, 1837 of natural causes, perhaps due to the fact that many reported that he became grief-stricken and never regained his health following the hanging of Frankie Silvers. He is buried near Highway 18 North in Chesterfield, North Carolina.

Squire had arrived to America in 1712-1713 with his sister, Sarah and his brother George IV. Squire's parents and the other six siblings arrived to America in August 1717 and settled in Pennsylvania. Squire was the son of Georg III (Sheriff John's great great grandfather born 1666 and resident of Stoak, England.

CORRECTIONS & ANSWERS

Reams Goodloe Sr reamsg@gmail.com responded to Kathy Wommack 's kmackmidland@gmail.com request in the "Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse" for March 2012 page 9.

Reams says; "I am the indexer for that publication. Also I am descended from Ambrose and Mildred Coffey. A descendant of G. W. Jewell is Joe Mosely, 5447 Vickery Blvd. Dallas TX 752065. Several years ago he published a book "The Jewell Family in Tennessee & Texas." , primarily on the descendans of Elizabeth. The address is several years old, but I expect you can still locate him."

Thanks to Reams, she got some good advice. More of us need to offer help if we can. You may have the answers or guides that are the key to solving their problem.

My comments re: William Ann Coffee [sic]. She was the daughter of John Jeems Coffee and Martha Virginia Epperson. Everything I find about John reports his middle name as Jeems but, it was likely James. He is said to be a descendant of Edward, Jr. and Grace Cleveland Coffey as described by Fred.

John Jeems was a native of Alabama, having been born there in 1851. His marriage to Martha Virginia Epperson, daughter of William and Sarah Epperson, occurred in about 1870 or 1871. In 1870 he was unmarried and lived with his parents in Guntown, Lee Co., MS. [1870 Lee Co., Guntown PO, Page 11, dwelling/family 82]. Martha was also a native of AL, born there c1849.

William Ann lies buried alongside her husband, John W. Lemons at the Coalgate Cemetery, Coal Co., OK. Her birthdate of Jul. 6, 1870 is likely inaccurate by perhaps a year.

William and John were parents of at least 10 children, several of which I have found descendants. Contact me for additional information.

Her brother, Joel William married c1900 Dessie Catherine Chester, born c1885 in TN. They had at least 12 children, four of which I have found descendants. They also went to OK where their children were born, but I have not found death and burial info for them. From at least 1910 through 1940 the family resided in Brogdon Twp., Johnston Co., OK.

My comments re: James Madison Coffey & wife Catherine Quisenberry of Christina [sic] [Christian] Co. KY and Washington Co. IL. Ellen, I'll need a bit more detailed information before I can proceed. I do find some James M. Coffeys in Christian Co., one, age 23 and a native of IL, in an 1860 household headed by Jesse Boling.

My confidence in this family's genealogy before Joel William and Elizabeth Moore Coffey is shaky.

Contact me.

Jack

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