

# Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981  
Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 1989-2012  
Editor: Jack K. Coffey

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## President's Message

Hello Cousins!

Believe it or not it is almost time for another Convention. Kathy has arranged some great rates there at the College; we should be able to have a great time. If any of you would volunteer to discuss any experiences that you have had and might be helpful in other cousins' searches, please come prepared to discuss them. I am sure there will be several places to explore, and Kathy says they have a wonderful library and a most helpful staff to assist you.

Be sure to make reservations with Kathy as soon as you can, both for lodging and the Dinner on Saturday night. We are looking to having a great time, maybe even learning some more about President Ronald Reagan.

Take care and hope to see you at Eureka.

Danny K. Coffey

### **Editor's Comments:**

As I recall, my wife Nelda and I first met Bonnie and Jim Culley at Boone, NC in 1989. That was my first Coffey Cousins' reunion. We were all a tad younger and in better health that we are today. It was about this time that Leonard Coffey, founder of the Clearinghouse newsletter, passed away and Bonnie was in the process of taking over the newsletter. She did a wonderful job for the next 23 years. I do not recall ever missing an issue or any issue being late. Finally, health issues began to take their toll and Bonnie decided that her time was better spent taking care of herself and Jim. She asked me to take the job and reluctantly, I agreed. I won't have it as long but, hopefully I can do her credit for however long I do have it. We love you Bonnie and Jim!

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**Libraries Please Note:** This is the last print version you will receive. A quarterly PDF will be available at <http://tinyurl.com/bompxj2> for download and printing.



Don Kerns of Garden Grove, CA ([DKerns823@aol.com](mailto:DKerns823@aol.com)) submitted this photo and a pedigree of his maternal ancestor Joel Anderson Coffey. The photo shows George [1] and Permilla Catherine Coffey Kerns [2]. Quintes Coffey and wife Frances Blakey are thought to be [3] and [4]. Don's grandfather, Ray Kerns is [5]. Don also submitted a few other photos and information from a Coffey genealogy book passed down to him from his father. I will be using some of that in future issues.

### John Taylor's book about Coffeytown

In 1993, John Taylor, now deceased, began writing his book, *The Coffey Family Settlers of 'Coffeytown'; Amherst County, Virginia*. He described Coffeytown as that "land along Staton's Creek." He cited an 1894 map then in his possession that referred to the creek as "Coffie Creek." [1]

The original settlers of this land "are described in family legend" as children of Jordon Coffey: Hudson, Schylar, John Jack, William "Billy," Nelson and Henry. Jordan's daughters were Jane, Susanna and Elizabeth who also contributed to the growth of Coffeytown.

Jordon and his family began appearing in the Amherst Co. census record in 1830. Many of the families we now associate with our Coffey ancestors had also begun to settle there. Familiar names such as Rucker and Ogden were prominent in the area.

In 1840, the sons of Jordan began to appear as heads of household. Only Henry and Hudson were unaccounted for but, there were two males age 20-30 in Jordan's household. John wrote that this was odd because Hudson was about 35 and too old and, Henry was too young at 18 to fit in that age category. They are not found elsewhere as heads of household in 1840. John did find that in 1839 John, Schyler, Jordan, Henry F., Hudson and William paid their taxes on the same day at the courthouse. He concludes then that the census age range in 1840 is incorrect, meaning that Henry and Hudson were still in Jordan's household.

John went on for 13 pages describing what he found in the census record for these individuals their families, some of his thoughts and conclusions.

Use this shortcut to view and download the complete PDF by John:

<http://tinyurl.com/aq4d6ze>

[1] For those readers who attended the 2008 Coffey Cousins' reunion at Raphine, VA and joined us for lunch at the Church in Coffeytown will recall this picturesque stream and falls.



**Dr. Titian J. Coffey**

COFFEY, Titian J., Physician and Surgeon, Los Angeles, Cal., was born at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, July 6, 1874, the son of Henry T. Coffey and Frances J. (Baldwin) Coffey. He is of Scotch-Irish descent. He married Miss Eva Elizabeth Keating, March 30, 1909 at Los Angeles, California. There is one son, Marvin Keating Coffey.

Dr. Coffey attended the Shattuck School, Fairbault, Minnesota, during the years 1891 and 1892. In the latter year he moved to Peoria, Illinois, and there attended the high school, from which he graduated in the year 1894. Moving to Chicago, he was a student at the Northwestern University Medical Department between the years 1894 and 1897. In the latter year he moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, California, and registered at the Medical Department of the University of Southern California, where he studied during the terms of 1897 and 1898, and was awarded his degree of Doctor of medicine June 2 of the latter year. He took a post graduate course in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania the following year, graduating with advanced honors on June 15, 1899.

While he was studying he was also getting hospital experience. During the year 1898 he spent several months as interne at the Los Angeles County Hospital.

In order to master some special problems in medicine he went to Chicago five years later (1903), and served as interne at the Chicago Lying-In Hospital for several months.

He returned to Los Angeles after his course at the University of Pennsylvania, and opened offices for the practice of general medicine and surgery, and soon established a firm reputation, both

professionally and socially. He is chief of staff at the present time of the Obstetric Department of the Los Angeles County Hospital. Study of the means to further the public health has appealed to him especially. He has investigated the problem of the proper sanitation of cities and of housing.

Los Angeles has recognized his services along these lines, and he is at the present time Chairman of the Los Angeles Housing Commission. This organization he helped to found in February, 1906. It concerns itself directly with the proper construction of residences, factories, office buildings and business houses, so that the health of the occupants may not be endangered, and one of its chief functions is to bring its influence to bear on the legislative bodies which have these matters directly under their control. He has gained even national recognition for his disinterested labors along this line, and has been elected one of the directors of the National Housing Association. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Juvenile Improvement Association.

He has also made a special study of tuberculosis, and has been elected a member of the board of directors of the California Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.

His activity in medical and professional circles is evidenced by the memberships which he holds in medical societies, of which the following are the most prominent: The American Medical Association, the State Medical Society of California, the Medical Society of Southern California, the Los Angeles County Medical Society, the Los Angeles Clinical and Pathological Society, and the Los Angeles Academy of Science.

The University of California has recognized his learning by appointing him to the position of Assistant Professor of Obstetrics in its medical department.

Dr. Coffey holds membership in the University Club, the City Club and the Municipal League.

He is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles.

Source: Press Reference Library, Western Edition Notables of the West, Vol. I, Page 348, International News Service, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, Atlanta. 1913. [copy and paste this link into your web browser to view this biography in the original form: <http://tinyurl.com/aqptqcr>]

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### **CCC Newsletter Archives**

Fred Coffey, the Coffey Cousins' DNA guru is also now the archivist of the entire presentation of newsletters from issue 1 to the current issue. Access is free and available on his website at

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CCCNewslettersOnline/>.

## **Research Tips**

I'm certain that many of you have already discovered familysearch.org. This is the constantly evolving internet family search service provided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This service has been on-line for perhaps three years and I have found it to be of immense service in locating facts as well as digital copies of original documents to support certain facts; e.g., marriages, census records, deaths and death certificates, etc. In the US alone they have added millions of records including everything from "Alabama Births and Christenings, 1881-1930" to "Wyoming Marriages, 1877-1920."

Also included are some public school records, divorce indices, naturalization records, images of US Rev. War Compiled Service Records, 1775-1783, Rev. War. Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, wills, probate, and the like. It is really the best on-line research site that I have ever used.

As I wrote above, this site is constantly evolving by staff uploading more and more records almost on a daily basis.

If you haven't used it yet, give it a try. You have to register with you name and e-mail address, but after that you're free to use whatever you find.

When you log on the first page you will see is one titled "Discover Your Family History." Underneath that are options for Records, Genealogies, Catalog and Books. The default option is Records and the one that I use 99.9% of the time.

Fill in a first name and last name. Select "Type" and you now have options to narrow your search to several areas; e.g., Births, marriages, deaths, etc. If you choose births, for example, fill in the birthplace, if you know it and a year range; e.g., 1850 to 1860. Generally, this is as far as I go before making a preliminary search.

That search will likely provide more returns than you can handle at one time. If that happens, back up to the first page – the Discover page – and put tic marks in the small blocks next to any of your search terms. That will narrow your returns considerably. But, if you really aren't positive about any of the info you entered, you may have to sift through all of the returns to find what you are seeking. If there is a camera icon next to the source, you'll find a digital image of the record.

One thing I like about this site is its ability to search for all spellings. For example, if you enter the last name Coffee, it will find Coffey, Coffie, Caffey, etc. If you want it to look for Coffee or Coffey only, enter that last name and place a tik mark next to it. First names like Randall will find names like Randy, [any first name with middle name] Randy, Randi, Randell, etc. Sometimes you will find a brown line dividing the page of returns. In the names above that line is where you are likely to find your subject. However, I have found many, many people that I was searching for just below that line. So, check them all very carefully.

Below, under **News You Can Use**, is a link to my blog warning of source and citation changes at Family History.

The website address is: <https://familysearch.org>.

### **Need e-mail notice of publication?**

With the old "paper" version of this newsletter, you always knew that a new issue was available because it appeared in your mailbox!

But we're no longer routinely putting out paper. So if you want a regular notification whenever a new newsletter is ready for you read, send a brief email note to:

[FredCoffey@aol.com](mailto:FredCoffey@aol.com) or  
[Jack.coffee@gmail.com](mailto:Jack.coffee@gmail.com)

Use subject: Request email notice of CCC news

Unless you want to also send greetings and/or other info at the same time, nothing else is required. We'll take it from there and, add your address to a distribution list. When each newsletter is published and released one of us will send a notice that it is "available," and remind you where to look.

We will also delete on your request, or whenever the email notice proves undeliverable.

To our readers: Thank you for taking an interest in this attempted revival. We (Fred and I) hope that you find it useful to your research.

We are interested in publishing your queries, short stories, photos, or whatever else you might want to share. You can write to me or Fred about anything Coffey related. Write Fred for DNA guidance.

[Jack.Coffee@gmail.com](mailto:Jack.Coffee@gmail.com)

or

[FredCoffey@aol.com](mailto:FredCoffey@aol.com)

### **Incoming Mail**

From Coffey Cousin Don Kerns  
(DKerns823@aol.com) of Garden Grove, CA

"Thank you so much for sharing this archive. It will now be possible to search articles related to my Coffey ancestors.

"My great-grandmother was Permelia Catherine Coffey Kerns. She was a daughter of Quintis Coffey and Frances Anne Blakey. I have a lifelong interest in the Civil War, and was thrilled to find that Quintis was a private in the 5th Kentucky Cavalry, and served with Sherman in the Atlanta Campaign and then on the march through Georgia and the Carolinas (I realize that this history won't endear him to some of my Coffey relatives). He was taken captive at Monroe's Crossing in North Carolina, but released within a few days, I believe because the Confederates were unable to deal with prisoners at that stage of the war. After the war, Quintis returned to Russell County, where he married Frances. They moved to Buchanon County, Missouri, and are buried in the Kerns-Freeman Cemetery near Easton.

"I do have a photo of Quintis and Frances with one of their daughters, if you are interested.

"I would be happy to hear from other Coffey descendants who have knowledge of Coffeys who served on either side in that war.

Again, thanks for making the newsletter so available."

Don Kerns  
Garden Grove, CA.

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Thanks Don! Great to hear from you and thanks for the photographs.

## **1911 Civil War Reunion in Arkansas**

To commemorate fifty years after the start of the Civil War, the city of Little Rock, AR held a Confederate Veterans' Reunion, May 16-18, 1911, a major newsworthy and social shindig for that era. An estimated 15,000 ex-Confederates attended festivities, among who were three Coffeys and one Coffee:

- Coffey from Aubrey, TX (formerly of Company "K", 55th Alabama Regiment)
- J. D. Coffey from Floyd, AR (formerly of Company "D", 10th Arkansas Regiment)
- T. D. Coffey from White Hill, TN (formerly of Company "D", 9th Tennessee Regiment)
- J. G. Coffee from Harmony, AR (formerly of Company "C", 16th Arkansas Regiment)

Of course the fact these old warriors attended this Confederate convention has little genealogical value, but I find it interesting, considering all of them were facing the twilight years of life, plus few means of travel back then, that they made the effort to go to the reunion. Based on supporting Confederate military records and other data, I believe that A. Coffey was Sgt. Aurelius Coffey, who probably [?] was a son of Dr. Edmund Aurelius Coffey and wife Dianah H. Bagby<sup>1</sup> of Denton County, TX. I believe J. D. Coffey to have been John D. Coffey, son of Cumberland Presbyterian minister Rev. David Pleasant Coffey and wife Mary C. Cogbill of White County, AR. I believe T. D. Coffey was Thomas Daniel Coffey, son of Baptist minister Rev. Hugh Coffey and first wife Mary Obedience McGaugh of Fayette County, TN. (John D. and Thomas D. both were grandsons of John [1773-1843] and Margaret (Baskin) Coffey who are mentioned in Goodspeed's 1894 *A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region*.)

Thomas D. Coffey has an interesting Confederate questionnaire on file at TN archives, completed when he was 81 yrs. old.) The fourth above old Confederate, J. G. Coffee, I believe was James G. Coffee (25 Dec 1845 - 7 Jan 1933), husband of Sallie A.; his gravestone in Harmony, Johnson County, AR confirms his military service.

For those who might want to check a surname to see if a Confederate ancestor participated in this 1911 Confederate reunion, there is an on-line searchable index (by surnames and initials, no first names) plus the military unit, easily found on the website of Arkansas History Commission.<sup>2</sup>

Thanks, Spencer Coffey (elzorroblando@juno.com)

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## **News You Can Use**

2013 Coffey Cousins' Reunion: <http://coffeycousins.blogspot.com/p/2013-coffey-cousins.html>

FamilyHistory.org: <http://coffeycousins.blogspot.com/2013/03/familyhistoryorg-sources-and-citations.html> [Sources and citations caveat]

Coffey Cousins' Y-DNA Surname Project: <http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/>

Coffey/Coffee Blog: <http://coffeycousins.blogspot.com/>

Coffey Cousins' Web page: <http://www.thecoffeycousins.org/coffeycousins.html>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://coffeycousins.blogspot.com/2011/06/dr-edmond-aurelius-coffey.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ark-ives.com/>

**CSI: RUSSELL COUNTY, KY, 1850**

**CENSUS:**

By Fred Coffey

I'm a fan of the various "CSI" shows on television, and like to imagine myself an equally skilled investigator. So here's my shot at a "Coffey Scene Investigation"!

The DNA: Every good CSI uses DNA as a powerful tool. And the Coffey DNA Project has a very interesting group of three tested men: Per their y-DNA, they are solidly descended from the patriarch Edward Coffey. But they are also DIFFERENT from the Edward Group in one small detail: On y-DNA Marker #27 (aka Y-GATA-H4) they have an allele value of "12". Everybody else descending from Edward has a value of "11".

A single mutation for any person is not surprising; but it is extremely unlikely that exactly the SAME mutation occurred THREE times in THREE separate lines. It is a near certainty that we're looking at ONE mutation in a single common ancestor, with that mutation then handed down to all his descendants.

The 3 tested men are George A Coffey, Danny K Coffey, and Gordon Lee Coffey. And they all trace their ancestry back to Russell County, Kentucky; to the early 1800's – at which point their genealogists all reach a dead end!

The Scene: Russell County, KY, is packed with "Coffey" families in the 1800's. And the 1850 census for Russell District 2 has one very tight cluster of Coffey families. The census takers usually visited houses in the order they found them, and there are 7 families, with 54 members, living in households 202, 204, 205, 206, 209, 210, and 211. And the 3 DNA-tested men each have their "dead end" in this cluster. This can't be a coincidence.

George A Coffey's Family: George traces his ancestry to House #211. He descends from Franklin Coffey and his wife Martha, through their son John. His ancestors are marked in red:

HOUSE #211	Age	Born
<b>Franklin Coffey</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1803</b>
<b>Martha Coffey</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1814</b>
Eliza J Coffey	20	1830
Willis Coffey	18	1832
<b>John Coffey</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1835</b>
Cleaviland Coffey	13	1837
Lucy A Coffey	10	1840
Banaparte Coffey	6	1844
Perneta Coffey	5	1845
Margaret J Coffey	0	1850

Danny K Coffey's Family: Danny traces his ancestry to House #209. He descends from Jackson Coffey and his wife Sarah, through their son Sidney:

HOUSE #209	Age	Born
<b>Jackson Coffey</b>	31	1819
<b>Sarah C Coffey</b>	35	1815
Willis A Coffey	9	1841
Mary H Coffey	9	1841
Sheley Coffey	7	1843
Jane Coffey	6	1844
<b>Sidney Coffey</b>	4	1846

Gordon Lee Coffey's Family: We now believe that Gordon traces his ancestry to House #205. He descends from Allen Coffey, through his son Joel:

HOUSE #205	Age	Born
<b>Allen Coffey</b>	38	1812
Hester Coffey	18	1832
William J Coffey	16	1834
John A Coffey	14	1836
Henry C Coffey	13	1837
<b>Joel Coffey</b>	11	1839
Frances J Coffey	9	1841
Franklin Coffey	7	1843
Martain Coffey	5	1845

(Note that Allen appears to be a widower, with a daughter named "Hester".)

False Lead – Wrong House for Gordon! – The "Joel" Problem: There has been some confusion regarding George's ancestry, and the trouble is actually in nearby house #202:



HOUSE #202	Age	Born
Joel Coffey	53	1797
Ann Coffey	39	1811
Allen Coffey	21	1829
Isam Coffey	14	1836
Joel Coffey	13	1837
John W Coffey	11	1839
Pruda J Coffey	9	1841
Julia A Coffey	9	1841
Nancy Coffey	6	1844
Stewart Coffey	4	1846
Mary Sharp	84	1766

You will see that Houses #202 and #205 each have a “Joel”, one age 13 and one age 11. Some have thought they were the same person, but this 1850 census proves they are two different people!

It’s too much to cover here, but a careful examination convinces that the “Joel” we want is in House #205.

False Lead: Father of Allen? Back to #205, with household head “Allen”. Some genealogists claim that Allen’s father was Fielding Coffey, son of Nebuzaraden Coffey. I doubt this:

First, I haven’t seen any evidence linking Allen to Fielding.

More importantly, the DNA says we must be looking for a common ancestor for our three lines. I don’t see any way that Fielding could ALSO be the father of Franklin and Jackson?

Finally, we DO have a DNA test on a descendant of Fielding – through his son Fielding Jr. – and that test does NOT have the “Marker #27=12”.

Recap: The Common Ancestor: The DNA says that George, Danny and Gordon must have a common ancestor. But their lines are separate until they get back to ancestors Franklin, Jackson, and Allen. So those three ancestors must have a common ancestor. And it is most probable that they are BROTHERS, with the same father.

And Hester is Their Mother? Now turn to House #210:

HOUSE #210	Age	Born
Hester Coffey	74	1776
Mary A Nelson	36	1814
Martha A Coffey	13	1837

The Head of this household is a 74-year-old lady, Hester Coffey, She was born in North Carolina; everyone else in this neighborhood was born in KY. (The others in Hester’s household may be a housekeeper, Mary Nelson, and a granddaughter or niece, Martha Coffey?)

Hester is just about the right age to be the mother of Franklin, Jackson, and Allen. And Allen named his oldest daughter “Hester” - after her grandmother?

THE MYSTERY: Who was Hester’s Husband? The real puzzle is “Who was Hester’s husband, the father of the three boys, and the person who likely had the single y-DNA mutation?” Here I am completely stumped, and invite help from our readers!

Extra Clues? There are two more families in this “Coffey Cluster”, who are undoubtedly related in SOME way. Here they are, for your consideration:

HOUSE #204	Age	Born
Martain Coffey	46	1804
Darius Coffey	30	1820
Benjamin Coffey	18	1832
Lucy A Coffey	17	1833
John W Coffey	15	1835
Sarah A Coffey	13	1837
Christian Coffey	12	1838
Mary J Coffey	10	1840
Martha Coffey	5	1845
Mandy O Coffey	3	1847
James S Coffey	0	1850

HOUSE #206	Age	Born
Willis A Coffey	23	1827
Mary A Coffey	22	1828
William M Coffey	0	1850

I speculate that these, plus House #202, may be descendants of Martin Coffey (1762 – 1867), who lived a very long time and had 3 or 4 wives.

COMMENTS? Fred [FredCoffey@AOL.com]

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### **Joel Anderson Coffey**

Joel A. Coffey, Postmaster, is a native of Tennessee, Born June 10, 1818. His parents, Elijah and Mary (Dyer) Coffey, came to Indiana when Joel was quite young, and located in Monroe County. They remained there but a short time, when they removed to Clay Township, Owen County, where they continued living until their deaths. Mr. Coffey is the sixth in a family of eleven children, and was reared on the home farm in Clay Township. He received a good education, attending school in the winter and helping on the farm in the summer. In 1851, he came to Spencer, and purchased the Spencer Hotel, which he ran for a year, after which time he sold it and went to farming in Washington Township, where he remained about eighteen months. He then returned to Spencer, where he followed painting and carpentering for some time. In 1853, he traded his farm for the hotel which he had formerly owned, rented it partly for a store room and the rest for a dwelling place. He then went into the general merchandise business, on the corner of the square where the National House now is. In 1863, he sold his interest in the store to J. J. Cooper and went into the insurance business, in which he continued for two years, and then took the agency for the Singer Sewing Machine in Owen County, which position he filled for about two years, when he went to farming. He soon afterward returned to Spencer, bought the same hotel, which he repaired and ran for a short time. He then sold it and became insurance agent again. In 1866, he was appointed Postmaster, has honorably filled the office, and at present occupies the same. In December, 1847, he was married to Charity McDonald, daughter of William and Ruth McDonald, old pioneers of Owen County. By this union there are three children. Mr. Coffey is a prominent member of the Christian Church, and is a staunch [sic] Republican. He is truly a good man and one of whom his fellow citizens may well be proud. [Source: Blanchard, C. (1884). *Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana*. F. A. Battey & Co.]

This Joel is often confused with the Joel Coffey who married Permilia Haynes on Jul. 31, 1836 in Russell Co., KY. The Russell Co. Joel is thought to be the son of Martin Coffey and Nancy Phelps [See Fred Coffey's dissertation, this issue]. This Joel never left Russell Co., KY and died there c1901. He and Permilia were parents of at least three children: Martha Ellen, c1838; Quintes, Oct., 1841-Jul., 1914 and Logan C., Jul. 29, 1842-May 7, 1919.

Joel Anderson was a son of Elijah and Mary Abby "Polly" Dyer Coffey. Elijah was a native of Caldwell Co., NC while Polly was a native of Ashe Co., NC. They were married in Owen Co., IN in 1847 when Joel was 29 and Charity was 28. They raised all of their children in Owen Co. Their children are said to have been: Stephen R., Alfred, Newton, America, Laura and Mary B. "Mollie." However, the first three were born well before Joel and Charity married, indicating that one or both had been previously married.

Anyone researching Joel Anderson of Owen Co. is invited to add to or correct any of this information. Sources will be appreciated.