Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981

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Editor: Jack K. Coffee

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981

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President's Message

If you were unable to make the journey to Eureka, you missed a great one. Thanks to Kathy Whitson for all the work she did for this convention. I think I can speak for everyone who was there, we had a wonderful time.

Glenda and I were unable to be there on Thursday, due to a grandson's High School graduation. But, we arose early on Friday morning and drove to Eureka, arriving about noon. We had called Kathy and she told us to meet at the small town of Metamora, where exists a historical courthouse in which Abraham Lincoln practiced law in his early days, He tried 72 cases and won all but one of them! We had a most excellent guide who was willing to spend as much time with us as we needed, but two hours was enough, as we were scheduled to return to Eureka and tour the Ronald Reagan Museum. A student at the college was our very informative guide.

Saturday was spent touring the city of Eureka, as they were having a city wide yard sale that day, I think everyone returned exhausted, and a little more broke.

You are stuck with the same officers as last year, and we haven't yet decided where we will be traveling to next year. But, that decision should be made in near future and will be announced in the newsletter. We're shooting for mid-Apr to mid-May for the reunion. Hope you can all attend.

Danny K. Coffey, President

Editor's Comments

I am extremely happy that Nelda and I could make it to the reunion at Eureka. For the past year I have had seemingly endless doctor appointments and unsure almost to the last week or so if we were going to be able to make the drive.

My observations coming away from the small gathering is that I experienced two of the three things I most enjoy: eating and sleeping. We were all able to hear and join in conversation at the breakfast and dinner tables, everyone was comfortably arranged in the group photo (see page 8-9), and all slept very comfortably, or so I heard.

Good going Kathy!

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News You Can Use

There is a new group on Facebook for researchers interested in Ambrose Coffee of Fort Boonesboro. Check it out at http://tinyurl.com/c6sue4p

There's also an O'Cobthaigh Clan group on Facebook at http://tinyurl.com/c2ffke9

Braxton Coffey

In issue 125 I wrote about Joel Anderson Coffey. Soon after, Camila L. Coffey Lafaver sent this photo with some files from the Dec., 1901 - Jan., 1902 Green County, KY *Record* concerning Braxton Coffey's death. Braxton was brother to her grandfather, James William, both sons of Joel Anderson Coffey.

The account published on Dec. 20, 1901 tells us that Braxton came to town [likely to Gresham] to buy coal oil and salt. Later, his wagon and one horse still in harness "were found near Haskinsville with his shoes and coat in the wagon." Later, the other horse was found near Coburg.

According to the *Record*, Braxton had not been found by the following Thursday. However, his frozen body was found the following Wednesday near Coburg and finally laid to rest at the family cemetery on Jan. 23, 1902. One newspaper item had this to say: "He has been slightly unbalanced for some time and what ever acted upon his disordered mind to induce him to commit the [act] which led to his death from exposure will never be known. He was about 40 years of age and had never been married."

Fred Coffey [fredcoffey@aol.com] sent to me the text of an e-mail that he had received from a young Canadian by the name of Skylar Coffey, age 14. This young man wanted to know more about his ancestry and descent from the "Hugh Coffey" line.

Not knowing a lot about Hugh, Fred forwarded the e-mail to Spencer Coffey who responded to Skylar with his lineage and recommendation that he find two books, *Echoes along the Ribstone* and *The Lantern Years: Buffalo Park to Neutral Hills*, both Canadian genealogy books. This Coffey family migrated from Boone Co., AR to the Alberta Province in western Canada.

Skylar's great-great-grandparents were Harry Spencer Coffey and Margaret Caroline Booth, married on Aug. 25, 1901 in Curtisville, MO and homesteaded near what is now Czar, Alberta. If interested in this family, contact Spencer at elzorroblanco@juno.com or, Skylar at skylar.coffey@ecacs16.ab.ca.



Saylor Marshall Coffey (1910-1987)

Saylor was a son of Jacob Morris and Mary Jane Lotts Coffey, born on Mar. 3,1910 in Rockbridge Co., VA, died Jun. 25, 1987 in Salem, VA. His wife was Margaret Lee Riley, a daughter of John William & Rosa Lillie Plogger, Riley. She and Saylor were married c1930 in VA.

Their children were Dorothy Juanita who married Carl Wesley Lewis in 1949, Rockbridge Co.; Cecil, born 1933; James Everett, born 1935; Dolly Mae, born 1937; John Marshall, born Mar. 22, 1939, died Oct. 22, 1989 at Waynesboro, VA; and Mary Jane, born 1944.

They are descendants of Edmond, son of John and Jane Graves Coffey [Photo courtesv Linda Lewis [lewis.linda48@vahoo.com]

George McDowell Coffey

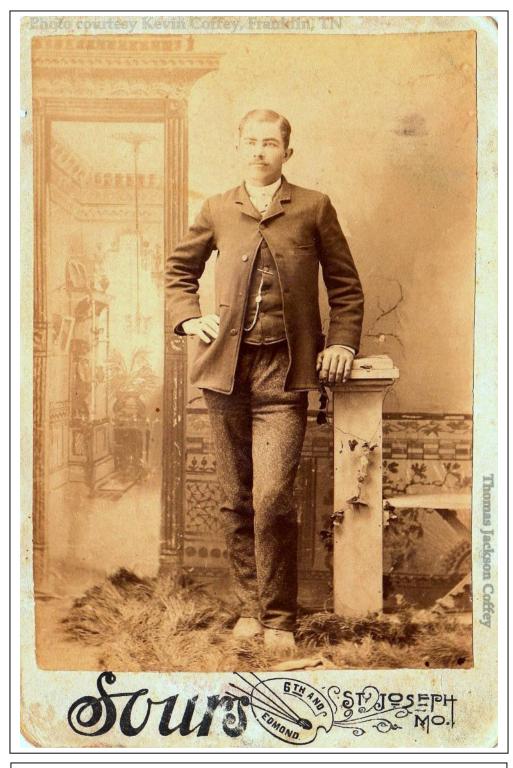
Banker; born, Memphis, Mo., Jan. 10, 1869; son, William and Mary Coffey. Edu.: Univ. of Missouri. Married, Hattie M. Cowell, May, 1886, at Memphis, Mo. Member of firm, Coffey & Wellenstein, wool growers. Pres., Citizens State Bank. Member: Masons. Address: Choteau, Mont. [Source: Who's Who on the Pacific Coast 1913, Harper Publishing, 1913, p116]*

Whose family does he belong to? He is not the son of Dr. Richard Nightingale Coffey who married Mae A. Gano on Sep. 2, 1893 in Jackson Co., MO.

*This book is available as a free e-book at http://tinyurl.com/lw8oz8h



Johnny Bill & Edna Lea Tucker Coffey. Johnny was a son of Sul Ross & Katie Simpson Coffey. He was next to youngest of eight and married Edna in Bandera Co., TX on Dec. 24, 1944. He and Edna and other family are buried at Tarpley Cemetery in Bandera Co. http://tinyurl.com/15tc9z2



Children of "Stonewall" and Mattie were: William Jackson, 1897-1993; Robert E. Lee, 1899-1959; Reuben Payne, 1902-1993; George Stanton, 1905-1929 and Charles Sofley, 1907-?. Her Portwood children were Ella May, 1892-? And Thomas Bruce, 1892-1986

This photo is of Thomas Jackson "Stonewall" Coffey, a son of Stanton P. & Mary C. Saufley. He was born in Denmark, Russell Co., KY on Sep. 20, 1866 and died in Kansas on Dec. 28, 1945. He is buried at Belle Plaine Cemetery in Sumner Co., KS.

He married Mattie Payne, daughter of Wm. Pigg Payne and wife Mary Jane Tarter. Mattie was born in Russell Co. on Jul. 8, 1866 and died in Harper Co., KS on Jul. 24, 1951 and was also buried at Belle Plaine.

Before her marriage to "Stonewall," Mattie was the wife of Wm. Bruce Portwood, born Oct. 9, 1865 in MS, died Sep. 9, 1893 in TX, just short of his 3d anniversary with Mattie.

See http://tinyurl.com/d2ce
98I for more info.

Photo and family info is courtesy of Kevin Coffey of Franklin, TN.

Need E-mail Notice of New Issue?

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:

<u>FredCoffey@aol.com</u> or Jack.coffee@gmail.com

<u>Use subject</u>: 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.

Your Info and Photos Needed

I am interested in publishing your queries, short stories, photos, or whatever else you might want to share. You can write to me about anything Coffey related.

Jack.Coffee@gmail.com

Write Fred for DNA guidance.

FredCoffey@aol.com

Incoming Mail

Helen White recently wrote with the hope of locating someone researching her husband's Coffey connection. She begins with Thomas Coffey, a son of Patrick, who was born in County Kildare, Kilcock Parish, Ireland in 1784 and died in Rock Lake, Wayne Co., PA in 1861. His wife was Ann Early, a daughter of Patrick Early and Bridget Monaghan, born 1786 at County Kildare, Kilcock Parish. She described Kilcock as a small town about 20 miles east of Dublin.

Thomas and Ann had children:

Bridget, who married John White. She was born in Kilcock in 1817 and died in Wayne Co., A in 1819. John was born in Galway in 1819 and died in Wayne Co. in 1897. They had eight children.

Patrick, born Kilcock between 1816 and 1819 and died in Wayne Co. in 1893.

John, born 1829 in Kilcock, died 1906 in Meriden, Jefferson Co., KS. He married Eliz. Welch in 1850 in Wayne Co. She was born in Co. Mayo, Ireland in 1831 and died in 1902.

If you can help Helen please contact her at hwhite36@optonline.net

Some of you may remember Jo Langwell from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. She put on one fine Coffey Cousins' reunion some few years ago and arranged for us to have dinner at the Ewing ranch. Jo recently sent me e-mail via Bonnie Culley in which she reported having multiple surgeries over the last 3-4 years. She says that she misses us and would like to keep in touch with everyone. You can write to Jo at jolangwell@tx.rr.com.

To have a sense of history one must consider oneself a piece of history ... Alfred Kazin

More incoming Mail:

In April I received a request from Ron Wolden [ron.bo@comcast.net] for assistance with his Wilson ancestry. His GGGrandparents were Robert Monroe and wife Susan Caroline Coffey Wilson. Ron is especially interested in the parentage of Catherine H. Wilson who married Marvel Coffey and Hannah Wilson who married John Coffey. Susan Caroline was the daughter of Athan and Mary McGuire Coffey. I believe he and I pretty much agree on that as well as the other children of Athan and Mary.

The only Catherine H. Wilson that I know of was born c1802 in Wilkes Co., NC and married Larkin Coffey on Jan. 9, 1826¹ in that county. Hannah Wilson married John Franklin Coffey on Oct. 3, 1796² in Wilkes Co.

Ron is also interested in the Wilcoxson and Cuthbirth (*var.*) families. Please contact him if you can help with any of them.

² Brent Holcomb, Compiler, *Marriages of Wilkes County, North Carolina, 1778-1868* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1983), Page 41. Coffey, John & Hannah Wilson, 3 Oct 1796; Eli Coffey, bondsman



Ron sent several photographs over the course of our exchanges. This one is of Susan Caroline Coffey Wilson on the occasion of her 96th birthday. She died in 1949 at the age of 103 yrs.

She was the daughter of Athan (*var.*) and Mary McGuire Coffey and mentioned in the Plott petition of Jun. 24, 1882 to administer Athan's estate. Other children mentioned were Smith; "the heir" of Boon Coffey, decd.; Jane Byers, wife of Seaborn [sic] Byers; Bud Coffey [Athan Napoleon]; Roxann Hannah Evans, wife of James Evans; and the minor, Emma Coffey.

Early on, Mary McQuire Coffey, Athan N. Coffey, Roxann Coffey Evans and Sarah Jane Coffey Byers, wife of Ceburn Byers, has signed away their rights to administer their father's estate.

Please contact Ron if you can help with his Wilson family. His e-mail address is above, this page.

¹ North Carolina Marriage Bonds 1741-1868; Original data: State of North Carolina. An Index to Marriage Bonds Filed in the North Carolina State Archives. Raleigh, NC, USA: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1977. Bride: Catherine H WILSON Groom: Larkin COFFEY Bond Date: 09 Jan 1826 County: Wilkes Record #: 01 053 Bondsman: LEWIS COFFEY Witness: Mary DAVENPORT Bond #: 000164646

The 2013 Coffey Cousins' Convention – Small but Fun for Everyone

Dr. Kathy Whitson, a professor of English at Eureka College in Eureka, IL was hostess for the 2013 gathering. She arranged for us to room on campus in Langston Hall. With graduation over, the campus was ours. I must admit, accommodations were much better than I expected. Assisting Kathy was Nancy Scott, Director of the Eureka Public Library District. Kathy's roots are primarily in Grainger Co., TN.

Kathy had assembled a packet waiting for each of us which contained all of the information needed for finding restaurants, library, and the like.

Eureka College, as most fans will know, was the Alma Mater of Ronald Reagan. He was graduated from this small Midwestern College in 1932. The campus is beautiful with a mixture of older and more modern buildings for students and staff. Photos (better than I could take) of the campus are available at http://tinyurl.com/ow4y6m7.

We all had a wonderful time filled with laughter and fellowship. We learned and (hopefully) taught a bit to a new cousin. While helping Janet Coffey with her genealogy, we discovered that she and Donna Wolfe Hoy are actual cousins. How neat is that!?



L-R rear: Janet Coffey (IL), Jon Hoy (IN), Larry Coffey (NJ), Jack Coffee (LA), Danny Coffey (KY), Middle L-R, Nancy Scott (IL), Donna Hoy (IN), Gail Bachman (FL), Nelda Coffee (LA); Glenda Coffey (KY), Bill Bachman (FL) and, Front L-R: Kathy Whitson (hostess, IL); Ellen Coffey Mohr (NJ), and Marguerite Coffey Yates (FL).

SEARCHING FOR IRISH COUSINS

By Fred Coffey

Many of us are interested in learning where in Ireland our ancestors might have come from. Our DNA project, with a number of genetically distinct groups, does include some groups with relatively recent immigrants who have some idea of their origins. But those of us who descend from Edward or Peter have yet to learn our origins (see next article). We have, however, just attracted THREE native Irish men who expressed willingness to join our Project, and as always we hope these will be the ones that match our Edward/Peter DNA:

A kit has been ordered for Tom Coffey, who is a resident of the Ards Peninsula in County Down, Northern Ireland. There are a significant number of Coffey families in Down, with many from the fishing villages on this Peninsula. A sister Project, the "Ards Peninsula Families DNA Project", was very helpful in finding Tom and persuading him to join.

And we got a note from John Coffey, who now lives in Kilkenny but traces his family roots to Galway, indicating his intention to join. Marvin D. Coffey, in his writings on "Ancient Origins of the Coffey Family", mentioned Galway as one area of interest.

Thirdly, Raymond Keogh (see next article) got a response to a newspaper posting he made: (From Dierdre Coffey) "Hi. My husband friend told him about the advertisement "Seeking Coffey's" which he came across in the Tipperary Star newspaper. My husband's name is Paul Coffey, and he is from Clonmel, Co Tipperary. His father (RIP) was from Felhard, Co Tipperary, and his father before him. There are other cousins living in Templemore, Co Tipperary. Maybe this is of some use to you?"

We've never tested anyone with connections to either Down or Galway, and only one uncertain link to Tipperary. Will keep you informed when results are back.

DIGGING FOR DEEPER ROOTS

By Fred Coffey

Most of you are probably aware that for several years we have been using DNA testing to confirm and extend the known genealogy of the various Coffey/Coffee family lines. Lorie Okel and I are coadministrators of our DNA Project, and you can read more at:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/DNA

The largest Coffey Family group in America is those who descend from Edward Coffey, who arrived in America before 1699. A smaller group is those who descend from Peter Coffee, who is believed to have arrived on a prison ship in 1730. And our DNA testing has confirmed that Edward and Peter were related, with a MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) back in Ireland.

Over time, I've worked to extend our knowledge of this combined family, and to explore roots back to Ireland. This has gradually expanded into a fairly lengthy paper, at the following:

http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/CoffeyOrigins-Edward&Peter.htm

This newsletter article is intended to briefly summarize the conclusions to date, and explain the direction we're trying to go. If you want the supporting arguments, you'll have to read the above link.

<u>Edward and Peter:</u> We have y-DNA tests on more than 50 of their descendants, with some tested out to 111-markers. And our testing service, FTDNA, has a probabilistic model that works with the test level, and knowledge of how often the various markers mutate, to calculate the probability of when the MRCA lived.

We know, of course, that their MRCA did not live in America. But it is just possible that the father of Edward was the grandfather of Peter – that is the "most recent" it could possibly be. And the model says there is about a 10% chance that is true. And it says there is about a 60% chance it is in the four generations prior to Edward. And it reaches a 90% probability the MRCA is in the eight generations before Edward.

<u>The Bigger Family:</u> We have known for some time that the descendants of Edward and Peter have a good DNA match to another family group, who has variations on the name "Kehoe". We now have identified five people with names Kehoe, Keogh, and Kaho, with test levels up to 111-markers. And there is no doubt that this "Coffey/Coffee/Kehoe/Keogh/Kaho" family have a single MRCA back in Ireland. One thought is that our surnames evolved from a single common root.

How far back? It can't be less than 300 years, because Edward and Peter's lines have been in America that long. And the probability model says it's quite unlikely to be more than about 700 years. The midpoint is 500 years. So best guess is that we all have a common ancestor, who lived in Ireland in about year 1500, give or take 200 years.

I've been corresponding a great deal with one "Raymond Keogh", who still lives in Ireland. He and I have both been tested at the 111-marker y-DNA level, and there is no doubt; He is the distant cousin of every descendant of Edward or Peter.

<u>Our Irish Homeland? Maybe Tipperary?</u> We've never yet been able to determine what part of Ireland Edward and Peter Coffey came from. But Raymond Keogh, and other sources, are fairly confident that the ancient homeland of the KEHOE clan is County Wexford. Since we now know the Kehoes are "family", maybe our Coffey homeland is nearby? And the nearest county with a large Coffey population is "Tipperary"!

So I've been keen to find some "Coffeys from Tipperary" to test, and Raymond Keogh is now trying to help. He sent a letter to the "Tipperary Star" newspaper, explaining that we were looking for Coffeys with roots in Tipperary, to test DNA for possible connections to the Kehoe's from Wexford. And he has now gotten one positive response (see previous article).

Most recently, we have had an American "Coffey", with ancestral immigrants from Tipperary, join our project. The bad news – he did not match our Edward/Peter group, or any other member of our project. But I'm not ready to give up on my Tipperary theory based on just one sample!

<u>Our Really Deep Roots:</u> There is another type of y-chromosome DNA study that groups people into "Haplogroups", indicating a common ancient genetic origin. These show that humans evolved over time into a number of groups, all starting from a "y-chromosome Adam" that lived about 60,000 years ago in Africa. About 25,000 years ago a branch called "R1b" had separated, and became the most common population group in Europe. Additional splits from R1b have been documented to date.

Both the Coffey and Kehoe lines have done such testing, and of course they are the same. At the present level of test depth, they are in group "R1b1a2a1a2b5", also known as "L176.2+". Ireland was settled in several waves in the last 2000 to 4000 years, and this test suggests the Coffey/Kehoe family came through Iberia or Southwest France.

Hey, Irish mythology claims the Milesians (you can Google that) were the final wave of invaders, and they came from Iberia. Maybe it's more than a myth, and our ancestors were with them? But keep in mind this was well before the invention of surnames, so we can presume none of them were called "Coffey" or "Kehoe". Marvin D. Coffey also speculated about the Milesians – see:

http://www.thecoffeycousins.org/text_files/ancient.html

DNA: COFFEY IS COFFEE IS COFFIA

By Fred Coffey and Rick Miller

We now have a DNA test on Terry Glen **COFFIA**. A perfect 12-marker test match proves that his family is indeed part of our "Edward Group" of Coffey/Coffee cousins. This name variation has long been known, but a review may be of interest. Terry's line from Edward is as follows:

- (1) Edward Coffey (~1670 ~1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 ~1744)
- (2) John Coffey (~1699 ~1775) & Jane Graves (~1708 1792)
- (3) Benjamin Coffey (~1747 1834) & Mary Hayes (~1760)
- (4) Bennett Coffey (~1779 <1858) & Sarah Ferguson (~1781 1847)
- (5) William Carrol Coffey (1824) & Martha Jane Jordan (~1831)
- (6) Jasper Newton Coffey (Jan 1854 30 Mar 1915) & Rutha Jane Shell (22 Jan 1861 21 Sep 1940)
- (7) Charley C. Coffia (23 Jun 1886 8 May 1952) & Annie James Johnson (22 Aug 1889 31 Jul 1957)
- (8) A. J. Floydell Coffia (7 Jun 1928 6 Jul 1995) & Hazel Laverne Pierce (5 May 1932 20 Sep 1990)
- (9) Terry Glen Coffia

Rick Miller has done extensive research: "I think the Coffia spelling originated with Jasper Newton's brother Perry Coffia (1856-1928). Born in Hancock County, Tennessee, he moved to Jackson County, Kentucky before 1880. By 1895, he was in Johnson County, Kansas and lived the rest of his life in Kansas. In addition to being spelled Coffia on various documents from his lifetime, his name is spelled Coffia on his headstone. He had four sons and a daughter, and all of them spelled the name Coffia. The Coffias who live around Oklahoma City and Edmond are his descendants. He also has descendants in Kansas and in Kiowa County, Oklahoma.

"According to Jasper Newton's granddaughter, Sydney Marie (Coffey) Upjohn, their family was spelling the name Coffey or Coffee (spelling wasn't their strong suite), until Charley and Wiley went up to Arkansas and Missouri to visit relatives. When they came back, they spelled the name Coffia. Sydney's father, Stoke, adopted the Coffia spelling for a while, but then went back to Coffey when he found it spelled that way in the family Bible.

"Of Jasper Newton's children, Martha, Rosa, Frank, Willis, Vesta, Stoke and Jessie spelled it Coffey. Charley C and Wiley C spelled it Coffia, as do all their descendants."

NOTE: For a more extended discussion by Rick Miller, see pages 3-5 of the following:

http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CCCNewslettersOnline/CCCIssue114.pdf

Research Tips

According to the welcome message at <u>My Genealogy Hound</u>, this free site contains "thousands of family biographies from early and rare history and genealogy references." A search turned up several about or which mention the Coffey surname. http://www.mygenealogyhound.com/

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

The Genealogy News: http://www.genealogytoday.com/news/online.mv?xz=JA13 [free with lots of links to other sites, some free, some not]

Genealogy Trails: http://genealogytrails.com/ [free]

Genealogy Trails: http://genealogytrails.com/ [free]

Coffey Cousins Newsletter Archives: http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CCCNewslettersOnline/.

Ellis Island: http://ellisisland.org/ [free]

Internet Archive: http://archive.org/index.php [free]

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild: http://www.immigrantships.net/ [free]

Billion Graves: http://billiongraves.com/ This website is making a superb effort to surpass

http://www.findagrave.com/

Please let me know if you have found any really good, obscure research sites. I'll be happy to publish them here with credit to you.

77 Years of Texas Coffee Reunions



These are descendants of James & Betsy Coffey in the Chesley line. They have been meeting in Texas for the past 77 years. Cousin Kathy Coffee Simmons tells me the group has not missed a year, even during war time. Some of you might not remember Kathy but many will probably remember her sister llah Coffee Merriman who often attended earlier Coffey Cousins' reunions. Both Kathy and Ilah (no. 1 & 2 respectively; look close) are in the middle of the photo, 3rd row back. I do not have the names of the others.

They spend about half the reunion going over old photos, getting them labeled and scanned and reminiscing. The rest of the time they are eating, visiting, watching the youngsters playing and visiting local sites. The younger generations are always welcomed in an effort to keep them interested in continuing the gathering. The group wants to continue meeting until at least the 100th year! Plans are to gather in Dallas in 2014.

If interested in learning more about the group, contact Kathy at Geneoguest@AOL.com.

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