

# Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981  
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Editor: Jack K. Coffey

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## President's Message

Cousins, believe it or not, it is time to begin plans for our next convention.

Donna Hoy will be hosting in Brownsburg, In, just west of Indianapolis Indiana. We feel this will be a very interesting place to gather as she has arraigned a very nice Hotel for headquarters, all kinds of restaurants in the area.

They do have a very large library with genealogy section that we can use for research and there are several attractions within a few miles of the hotel, Everyone knows of Indy Speedway, which has tours and a racing museum.

Key will be to make reservations with the hotel before March 15, to get best rate, after that, our block of rooms will be released, so if you can get in it will cost more.

Hope to see a lot of you there!

Danny K. Coffey

## Editor's Comments

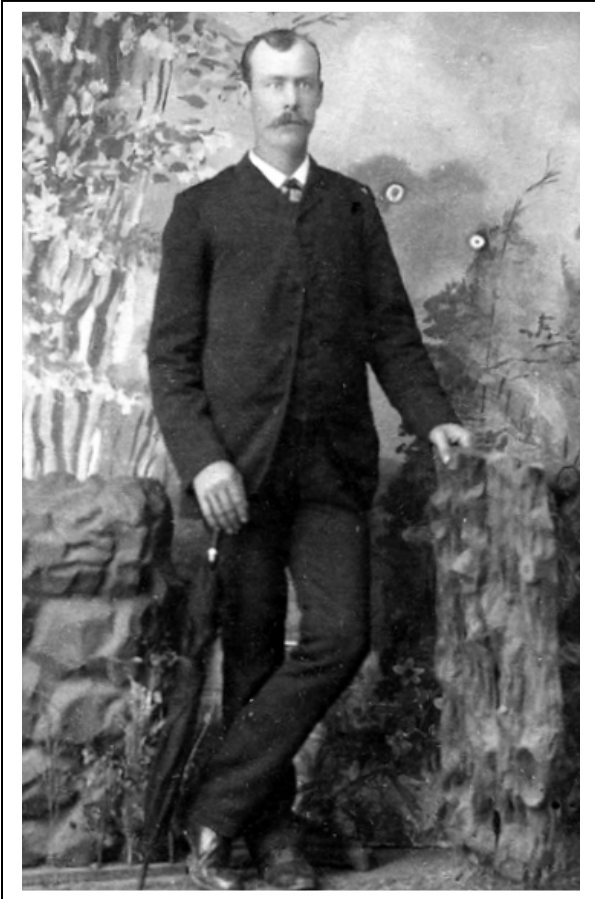
- The cost to print and mail this newsletter to readers who desire a hard copy is more than the current subscription fee. Average cost per copy is \$3.48 when color, including sepia tone is used. To offset this direct cost to me, subscription fee will go up to \$15 beginning in Jan., 2014. Color inserts will then begin anew.
- I am ending updates to the Edward Coffey Project. Pricing and availability has changed. Please review offer at <http://tinyurl.com/n2aedo2>.
- The Coffey Cousins' generously offered to subsidize this website but for personal reasons, I decided not to accept. I have placed a button on the entrance page to the newsletter and would appreciate donations of any amount to off-set cost set by internet host of the website.

## Famous Quotes

"There are only two lasting bequests we can give our children - one is roots, and the other, wings." -- **Hodding S. Carter**

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Langston Coffee who married Mervina Coffee. I would love to find anyone who has a photo of Mervina and/or any of their children.

This photo is courtesy of Kathy Coffee Simmons (Geneoquest@aol.com)

### **Louisa Victoria Coffey**

Carol H. Pierce, a great granddaughter of Louisa sent a number of images from the Langston Coffey Bible. She wrote that the Bible had been slightly damaged during Hurricane Ike but she was able to successfully scan the family pages. They are too large to include in the newsletter.

Langston is the son of James and Elizabeth Coffey Coffey in the Chesley Coffey line. He was born Aug. 11, 1807 in Adair Co., KY, married Mervina, a daughter of Absalom and Mary Lusk Coffey in c1832. Absalom was a son of Nathan and Mary Saunders Coffey, also a Chesley descendant.

Louisa Victoria was born on Sep. 22, 1854 in TX and died on Jul. 20, 1925. She was buried at Erick Cemetery in Beckham Co., OK. She and William Edgar Hood, born GA on Nov. 2, 1849, were married c1872. He died on Sep. 3, 1904 and is also buried at Erick.

In 1900 the family was farming in Greer Co., OK Territory. Louisa was the mother of 4 children but, only three survived: Claude, born c1873; Ira, born c1874 and Wyatt Otis, born 1877. All were born in TX. Wyatt married Cassie Parish on Nov. 3, 1897 in Morris Co., TX. He died in OK in 1960, Cassie in 1963.

Write to Carol at [VCHP@aol.com](mailto:VCHP@aol.com) for additional information.

### **News You Can Use**

The State Historical Society of Missouri has made available to researchers "a growing collection of digitized historic newspapers. These images are freely available to the public and are keyword-searchable." Check it out at <http://tinyurl.com/p3kznc3>. If you haven't already, also check out the MO Sec. of State website *Missouri Digital Heritage* at <http://tinyurl.com/zw3e9> where you will find among other things, digitized death certificates from 1910 to 1962.

The Univ. of Oregon libraries at Eugene have built a new website called "Historic Oregon Newspapers." According to the website, "The Oregon Digital Newspaper Program is committed to providing free online access to historic Oregon newspapers." I haven't checked all dates but, it appears that most images end c1922. Find them at <http://tinyurl.com/d6xeemc>.



Sarah Delilah Coffey  
Daughter of James Wilson & Louisa T. Norman Coffey

**Sarah Delilah Coffey**, born Feb. 11, 1864 in Morgan Co., IN, died Jun. 7, 1897 in Clatsop Co., OR. She is buried at the Knappa Prairie Cemetery in Clatsop Co.

Born to James Wilson & Louisa Tennessee Norman Coffey and, although no publicity info has been found, Delilah was apparently a classically trained violinist. She never married but was the mother of three sons, all born in IA and perhaps in Washington Co.

Her first son was Virgil Benjamin, born Mar. 28, 1892, died Mar. 21, 1941 in MT. He was buried in Bonnievale Cemetery in Fallon Co., MT. In 1940 he was Albert Schneider and lived with his adoptive parents, Charles & Minnie in Fallon Co.

Her other two sons were twins, James Norman and Clarence, born Sep. 20, 1896.

Nothing else is known about those sons.

Source: Dorothy L. Crawford (decd), 1995

**Olin Jay Coffey**, a son of David Nathaniel and Caroline Lavinia Coffey Coffey. He was born in Watauga county on Apr. 4, 1900, died there on May 28, 1986 and was buried at the Boone Fork community cemetery in Blowing Rock.

When he was 20 years old he married the previously married Edna Estie Coffey, his second cousin and a daughter of Julius Calvin and Clarissa Adams Coffey. Estie, as she was called by family, had first married David Boone Chester on Sep. 17, 1917 in Avery Co., NC. It is unclear to me if he died or they divorced. In any event, she then married Olin on Dec. 23, 1920 in Caldwell Co.

After their first child died at birth, the second survived. She was Norma Pauline, born Jun. 3, 1924, died Nov. 9, 2003. Norma was the wife of the Rev. Howard T. Hodges. Eleven days after Norma was born, Estie died at Shulls Mill in Watauga county. Olin then lived with his brother Blaine until on Nov. 18, 1942, at age 42, he enlisted in the US Army at Camp Croft in SC.

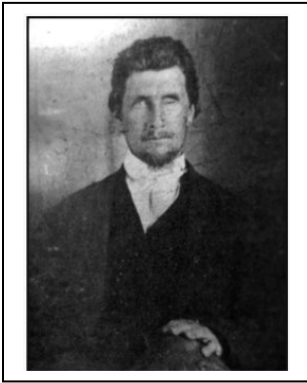
When he returned from the service, Olin became a farmer. But, he was also Postmaster in Watauga Co., and served on a number of community and municipal boards. He was the town's authority on elections having also served as registrar and judge. As best as I can tell, he never remarried.

Estie is also buried at Boone Fork.



*Olin J. & Estie Coffey*

## William McKesson “Keith” Blalock



William, or Keith as he was known locally, was born a son of Mary A. Blalock, a single woman, on Nov. 11, 1837 in North Carolina, and probably in Watauga Co. Not much is known of his early years except that he was a brawler. The nickname Keith came from a renowned fighter of the day by the name of Alfred Keith.

On Mar. 3, 1862, at the age of 24 years, he enlisted in Co. F., 26<sup>th</sup> NC Infantry Regiment and discharged a month later. He had earlier married Sarah Malinda Pritchard on Jun. 21, 1856 in Caldwell Co. She enlisted in the same unit on the same date, giving her name as Sammy Blalock, Keith's brother. She was also discharged on the same date as Keith.

During that short period of service to the CSA, they saw combat in two battles; one on Mar. 30 at New Bern, NC and one on Apr. 20, in Kingston, GA where Sarah is said to have been wounded. This event exposed her as a female, resulting in her discharge. Keith is said to have intentionally exposed himself to a severe case of poison ivy, resulting in his discharge.

In about 1844, Mary A. Blalock married Austin Coffey, a son of Jesse and Margaret “Peggy” Edmisten Coffey, bringing both of her children (she also had a daughter named Mary, born c1842, father not known) to the union. Mary's disposition is unknown to me but it is known that Austin raised Keith as his own son along with his children with Mary: Margaret Ann, David Nathaniel, Thomas Avery and Jesse Filmore.

When Keith and Malinda enlisted in the CSA, it was for the purpose of getting near to Union lines so they could defect. Failing that, they returned to Watauga county and became a recruiting officers for the 10<sup>th</sup> Michigan Regiment. They were essentially the “Bonnie and Clyde” of western North Carolina, feared by both secessionists and pro-Union alike. They made their living by bushwhacking, thieving and murder.\*

The Coffey in that part of NC were, for the most part, staunch supporters of the Confederacy. Between Aug., 1864 and Feb., 1865 – which many considered a “reign of terror” – Blalock hunted out his enemies. His intended first victim was his uncle Reuben Coffey, then William Coffey. Reuben was not home when Blalock and his renegades arrived so they went to William's home, kidnapped him and took him to the nearby James Gragg mill where he was shot.

Blalock's killing rampage brought Col. Avery's CSA battalion to the county where Austin, a Union sympathizer, was found and arrested on Feb. 26, 1865 by Marlow's company under Col. Avery's command. The following week Austin's body was discovered by searchers sent out by Mary Blalock Coffey. Some years later, Austin's son Jesse Filmore is said to have met a former member of Marlow's company by the name of John Walker. Walker told Jesse that he had been detailed to kill Austin but refused. A “base-born fellow” named Robert Glass, or Anders, did the act while Austin slept.

Keith died on Apr. 11, 1913 when he derailed a hand car along a local railroad. Rumors said that it was not an accident but, “final payback” for all of the trouble he and Malinda had brought to Watauga Co. He and Malinda, who died in 1901, are buried at Montezuma Cemetery in Avery Co., NC.

\*Many of these facts are provided in *A History of Watauga County, North Carolina* and *Western North Carolina – A History* (from 1730 to 1913), both by John Preston Arthur. Facts given in both books are somewhat contested to this date by descendants and allied families. See <http://tinyurl.com/kdp4jbjk>

**Incoming Mail**

Dennis King ([dennis.king1@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.king1@gmail.com)) sent several nice photos of a few of his Coffey ancestors. He descends through his mother Alice Lee Coffey, from Clarence Wesper Coffey > Nathan Coffey > Harden > William "Billy" > Jordan of Coffeytown, his 4GGrandfather.



Nathan Coffey



Nathan standing, parents Harden & Betty Crawford Coffey



Harden Coffey



Elizabeth "Betty" Crawford Coffey

Thank you for the photos, Dennis. I always appreciate efforts to keep Coffey Cousins' up to date with new family information as well as photos as well preserved as these.

Harden, age 21 and Betty, age 18, were married in Amherst Co., VA on Jan. 16, 1867. Here parents were Wm Mansfield & Catherine Hamilton Crawford.

## Incoming Mail, cont'd

Pamela Hubbs ([pam.hubbs@gmail.com](mailto:pam.hubbs@gmail.com)) is searching for information on Michael Coffey, born 1798 and from Watervliet/West Troy or Troy, New York. His wife was named Mary.

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Leigh Byers ([leigh.byers@roadrunner.com](mailto:leigh.byers@roadrunner.com)) wrote to provide information about the death date and burial location of her grandparents, Rufus Anson and Beatrice Chloe Moore Coffey. Both can be found at the Westminster Gardens cemetery in Greensboro, Guilford Co., NC. Other relatives, including her father and an uncle are buried there. Both were medical doctors: Dr. James Cecil Coffey, born Jul. 22, 1912 in Caldwell Co., died Jun. 18, 1987 in Salisbury, Rowan Co., and Dr. Robert Tuttle "Bob" Coffey, born Oct. 19, 1921 in Henderson Co., NC, died Mar. 12, 2004 in Mooresville, Iredell Co., NC.

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Lauren O'Coffey ([laurenocoffey@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenocoffey@hotmail.com)) wrote asking for help connecting her family to other O'Coffeys in America. She wrote "I don't know when my family came over so I can't trace the ship or port, but I do know that Lowry O'Coffey lived in Edmonton Alberta." Please write to Lauren if you can help her research in any way.

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E-mail from Deborah (Debbie) Kaye Woods-Takemoto [[curtistakemoto@comcast.net](mailto:curtistakemoto@comcast.net)]: She is the daughter of Donald Woods and granddaughter of Rosettie Coffey Woods, a daughter of William Perry & Mary Ellen Wemple Coffey. Rose Etta or Rosettie was born in 1889, Newport, Jackson Co., AR and married Clarence Elwood Woods on Aug. 6, 1911 in Nowata Co., OK. Debbie's father was Donald Woodrow Woods, born 1924 in Bristow, Creek Co., OK. Debbie wrote that some in her family believe William Perry was adopted and part Cherokee. His sister, Rosa who married William Henry Bacon is said to have been on the "Trail of Tears." However, Rosa was born in 1852 and married in Howell Co., MO to William Henry Bacon in 1875. The "Trail of Tears" occurred in 1831.

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Back in April, 2009 I wrote a blog about Byron Howe & Nellie Branham Coffey. Bryon was a son of Wesley W. and Laura Josephine Howe Coffey. Wesley was descended from the Rev. Reuben A. and Martha "Polly" Dowell Coffey through their son Albert, who married Sarah Goodnight.

Byron and Nellie had at least four children, one of which was Cecile Louise, born 1897 in Spencer, Owen Co., IN, died Feb. 11, 1946 in Los Angeles, CA. She married Joseph Adolph Iverson c1927 in CA. He was a son of Charles [Karl] John and Augusta Marilda Wagman Iverson. Charles was Norwegian by birth while Augusta was Swedish. The Iverson's were owners of the Iverson Movie Location Ranch at Chatsworth, CA. If you are as old as me and went to see westerns on Saturday as a kid or, if you watch a lot of old western movies on TV today, you've undoubtedly seen parts of this ranch in those movies. The blog generated e-mail from the current owners of the ranch. See the blog at <http://tinyurl.com/m6gkm6c> to read the e-mail.

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Elizabeth [[lizzyiscrazy23@gmail.com](mailto:lizzyiscrazy23@gmail.com)] wrote about Henry Alexander Ditmore who married Mary Jane Coffey c1866 in North Carolina, probably Cherokee Co. I had lost track of the couple and Elizabeth wrote to tell me that Henry had left Mary Jane, and a child, sometime between 1867 and 1868 and headed to Texas. He settled first in Panola Co. where he married Elvira C. Mathews on Jan. 28, 1869. He died in 1923 at San Angelo, Tom Green Co., TX. Mary Jane later married a James M. Coffey, who I have yet to identify. They had at least one child, Dora, born c1878. See <http://tinyurl.com/lcjoac6> for more info.

Bob Bland ([bbland1613@gmail.com](mailto:bbland1613@gmail.com)) is searching for the Thomas Randall & Nancy Laveda Coffee family in TX and NM.

## **Research Tips**

+ Ancestry, at one time, was about the only on-line site where researchers could find census records and other document extractions; e.g., marriage records, etc., it is certainly not the only one today. Ancestry is still a good place to find census records if you know how the indexers might have interpreted your ancestor's given name. You know your ancestor was a Coffey and his given name was correctly spelled Adoniram. But, when you plug that into Ancestry's search engine, you get no returns. Why? Probably because he was indexed as Adroniman or, perhaps it was spelled that way in the index because that's the way the enumerator spelled it in the record. Unless you know this, you are unlikely to find your ancestor on Ancestry.com.

However, plugging something resembling Adroniman into the LDS on-line site at FamilyHistory.com (FH), will return whatever comes close to that spelling with the last name of Coffey. Ancestry has been attempting to upgrade their search engine for some years. However, I don't believe they have yet been able to match the simple search of FH. True, FH returns a lot of information. However, the user has lots of options for sorting out the returns. Although still an Ancestry subscriber, my first resort for finding someone is FamilySearch.com. [Note: Some FH census results redirect the user to Ancestry.com or Fold3.com]

+To find the physical description of the location your families resided in 1940, find the "enumeration district (ED) number" for them in the 1930 census; e.g., North Carolina, Cherokee Co., ED 20-11, then visit the website designed by Stephen Morse & Joel Weintraub at <http://tinyurl.com/d4vhpks>.

Enter the 20-11 in the "If you know the 1930 ED for this location, enter it here" space. That will give you the ED for that area in 1940. Select "1940 ED Description" and click on "more details." The result will show you they were in Valley Town Twp., outside Andrews and Marble towns, west of Graham county road and north of the southern railway. Again, click on "view" in the "Details" column and you will be shown the original document. Here you will see the detailed location as well as 1940 population compared to 1930.

On April 1, 2012 it had been 72 years since the 1940 census was taken. Chances are you will not be able find some ancestral roads on any modern map.

### **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](mailto:Jack.Coffee@gmail.com)

Write Fred for DNA guidance.

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

### **Little known facts about the 1940 Census**

- In 1930, 25% of the US population lived on farms. By 1940 that had been reduced to 18.5%
- 1940 Median income for a man was \$956. By 2010 it was \$33, 276. Women earned \$.62 for each dollar a man earned in 1940. By 2010 they were receiving \$.74 for each man dollar.

**News You Can Use Update:** [The Ancestor Hunt Blog](#) by Kenneth R. Marks has recently concentrated on researching free newspaper archives. He has a considerable list compiled as well as helpful tutorials. Click on above link to visit his site.

**Last Will and Testament of John Barlow, Jr., 20 Jan., 1855**

Courtesy of Doug Land ([wdforte@msn.com](mailto:wdforte@msn.com))

[John Barlow was born in 1768 and died in 1856]

In the name of God, Amen. I, JOHN BARLOW of the County of Caldwell, and the State of North Carolina, being weak in body but of sound mind and disposing memory, do make this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following: PRINCIPALLY and first of all, I recommend my soul to almighty God that gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian-like manner. And as touching such worldly estates as it has pleased God to bless me with, I give and bequeath as follows: Item 2nd: I give and bequeath unto my beloved grandchildren, to wit: Charlotte, Julia, Hamilton, Horton, Dycey, Emily Barlow the sum of six dollars and seventy-one and fourth cents a piece. Item 3rd: I give and bequeath unto my beloved grandchildren, to wit: Cromwell, Rufus, Thomas and Jane Barlow, the sum of six dollars and seventy-one and fourth cents each. Item 4th: I give and bequeath unto my beloved grandchildren, to wit: Known as Polly Walker's children - Sarah Maltby, Emily Walker, Arminda Walker, the sum of six dollars and seventy-one cents each. Item 5th: I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter, Nancy Coffey, one clock, one table, and one jug and sixteen dollars in money, at my death or when it is collected after my death. The balance of my estate to be equally divided between my children: Eliphalet, Thomas, Joseph, Henry, Braxton, and Larkin Barlow, and Jane Bradley. I hereby nominate and appoint my beloved sons, Larkin and Joseph Barlow, executors of this my Last Will and Testament. Given under my hand and seal the day and year first written. John Barlow (Seal)

The above will was probated February 1857 in Caldwell County, North Carolina. This indicates that John Barlow died in Caldwell County in late 1856 or early 1857 at age 88 or 89. The place of burial is unknown, but it is possible they were buried in unmarked graves at Kings Creek Baptist Church.

Doug requests contact by anyone that knows "specifically 'where' some of the families resided on their particular farms in Kings Creek and Beaver Creek, over time..." Some of those families he named were "George Ferguson, the Holts, the Allens, the Brookshires, the Carltons, the Lands, other Barlows, the Coffeys, the Witherspoons, the Davises, the Walkers, the Wallaces, the Maltbys, the Kendalls, etc."

Doug also sent along a reference to the [Melungeon DNA Surname Project](#). The site contains a number of interesting articles, DNA test results, a Melungeon blog, schedule of events pertaining to those with or interested in Melungeon heritage, genealogies and records, and the like. It is unclear to me who maintains this particular section of the website but, Elizabeth Hirschman and Donald N. Panther-Yates are named as Melungeon Surname Researchers.

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**A Personal Note:** I have recently been diagnosed with Stage 3, B-Cell Lymphoma. From what I understand right now, I'm in a rather elite group as only about 7 in 100,000 people ever get this type of blood cancer. I had my first chemo on Sep. 19<sup>th</sup> and had no adverse affects, thank God! It was discovered on Aug. 1 when I went to the emergency room thinking I had appendicitis. Good thing I didn't just ignore it as another "getting old" pain. My oncologist says there's a 70% to 75% chance of recovery. Literature gives me a bit better advantage, perhaps as much as 80% to 85%. Either percentage is acceptable to me.

Biopsy results were not back from the lab when I reported for the first chemo. That biopsy could result in declaring me at Stage 4 requiring more chemo treatment. As of right now however, I have 6 scheduled treatments over the next 18 weeks.



## 2014 Coffey Cousins' Reunion to be "Back Home Again in Indiana"

**Let's make this a big one! Please notify all of your Indiana Coffey Cousins.**



Indiana State Flag

Next years reunion will be hosted by Donna Wolfe Hoy at the Comfort Suites hotel in Brownsburg, IN, from April 24-26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Brownsburg is just a bit west of Indianapolis.

Donna has reserved a block of 15 rooms for us at the Comfort Suites hotel. They will be held open until March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. A special rate for Coffey Cousins' is \$79/night. After March 15<sup>th</sup>, the rate jumps to \$109 to \$120/night. Do not procrastinate if you plan to attend.

Hendricks County sits between Marion (Indy) to the east and Putnam (Greencastle) to the west. The county seat of Hendricks is Danville. Putnam is known for its covered bridges while Hendricks is famous for handcrafts, and art galleries. Check the numerous internet sites for more information on tours, day trips, etc. in these areas.

Information about the banquet will be released as plans become finalized. In the meantime, contact the hotel at [317-852-2000](tel:317-852-2000) to make reservations. Don't forget to mention Coffey Cousins' to receive the special rate. For other reunion questions write to Donna at [djwhprisms@aol.com](mailto:djwhprisms@aol.com). Feel free to contact me at [jack.coffee@gmail.com](mailto:jack.coffee@gmail.com) for information about Coffeys in Indiana.



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