

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981
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Editor: Jack K. Coffey

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Special Issue No. 129 ISSN 0749-758X Dec 2013

President's Message

Hello Coffey-Coffee Cousins!

I hope this Holiday season finds all of you in good health and spirits. Let me wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and joyous New Year.

Glenda and I would like to remind you to go ahead and make your reservations for our 2014 Convention. Donna has put in a lot of time making plans for us to have a very enjoyable time this year; you can do research at Indianapolis or a short distance away at Fort Wayne. There will a variety of fun activities and even have a professional drive you around the Indy 500 track at 180 miles per hour, that should make you feel young again!

We are looking forward to seeing a good number of you in April.

Danny & Glenda

Editor's Comments

This is a **Special Issue** meant to remind all about the 2014 Reunion at Brownsburg, IN from Apr. 24-26. It is also meant to return the newsletter to the original quarterly release date. The next issue will be March, 2014.

- Don't forget: The price of the mailed paper version of the newsletter rises to \$15/yr in January 2014. This to cover cost of color for print subscribers.
- I am ending updates to the Edward Coffey Project DVD. Pricing and availability has changed. Please review offer at <http://tinyurl.com/n2aedo2>.
- Special thanks to Kevin West, Faye Starbuck & Juanita Daniel for their generous support.

Famous Quotes

"When a society or a civilization perishes, one condition can always be found: They forgot where they came from." **Carl Sandburg**

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Incoming Mail

Karen H. (klouseehew@gmail.com) wrote requesting information about the parents of her 4G-grandmother, Telitha Coffee [sic]. Telitha was born c1826 in KY and married William D. Prater in that state c1845. They were parents of nine children, including her 3G-grandfather, Thomas S. Prater. Please contact Karen if you can help her find Telitha's parents.

Nancy Coffey (nregga47@ymail.com) wrote concerning her paternal G-grandfather, John Marcus Coffey who married Annie Wilson. She believes that his father was one of the John Wesley Coffey who married Rebecca Jane Johnson. She believes she may be from the same family as George, Danny and Gordon Coffey (Issue No. 126, Page 8). Please contact Nancy if you can help solve her problem.

Linda Roberts (lroberts13@cfl.rr.com) wrote to let me know that she had found a number of actual Russell Co., KY Coffey wills on FamilySearch.com. (Index page: <http://tinyurl.com/pbmkjlu>). These records are from the Kentucky Probate Records, 1727 to 1990 which contains Russell Co. Will Records, 1826-1854, Vol. 1.

Bob Bland (bbland1613@gmail.com) sent an inquiry concerning Nancy Luck, born in Hobbs, NM in the 1930's to 1940's. From his message I conclude that she married Tom Coffee, born about the same time frame. They had a son named John, born in the early 1950's and another named Steward born c1957 and later died in an oil rig accident. This family is too young for me to have yet located as a descendants of Edward. Please write to Bob if this family is familiar.

Tobias (1bias2@gmail.com) is a descendant of the first marriage of George Woottens to Stacy Hampton. His second wife was Martha Coffee [sic]. Tobias is very interested in contacting Beverly Butler, the author of a book based on the journal of Clarence Wootten [sic] about the Coffee, Moore, Wootten and, Drake venture west in 1863-64 to central California.

Tim Rich (tim68rich@yahoo.com) is searching for info on his maternal grandfather James Comer Coffee (1909-1972). His grandmother was Nellie Grace Scott. James' father was also named James (1844-1924). Tim believes his GGG-grandfather might be Willis Coffey (1804-1893), son of Eli (1775-1833), son of Salathiel (1751-1784) and then Chesley or, as some references to him show, Joel.

Jack Coffey of Nova Scotia, CA (jackconmira@ns.sympatico.ca) wrote about his Coffey family who emigrated to and settled in Canada in 1816:

"Jack; I enjoy reading each issue of your newsletter as I try to read as much as I can find about Coffee/Coffeys everywhere. I have read your offer to publish stories and photos of Coffey related information. Below I have written a brief outline of my Coffey family in Canada.

"My name is Jack Coffey, and I live in Nova Scotia, Canada. I would like to share my Coffey family story with other readers of this newsletter. Most of the membership that reads this are I believe Americans, yet Coffeys also settled in Canada. Most of the earlier Coffeys who crossed the Atlantic came in small numbers. Some of them were brought to America as white slaves, having been sold by the English to white English settlers in Maryland, Virginia and even the West Indies, while others came to escape poverty, religious oppression and to find land to be pioneers. Later Coffeys, (1840's and forward) also escaping poverty and famine came in much larger numbers, but mostly settled in urban areas.

"My great-great grandparents, Patrick Coffey and Judith Donovan were married in Kilbrittain, County Cork, Ireland in September 1815, and sailed to Canada the following year. Patrick was a shoemaker and he and his bride settled on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia on Canada's east coast.

"Patrick and Judith raised a family of nine children, three of them being sons. They received a land grant of 100 acres of wilderness and gradually built a working farm with fruit orchards, hay fields, livestock, a comfortable home, barns and outbuildings.

"When Patrick and Judith arrived in Canada, they were penniless, illiterate and only spoke Irish Gaelic. They left a legacy for their children and descendants of honesty, social responsibility, family values, and optimism. Patrick died at his home in 1863 surviving Judith by a few months. I am a descendant of Michael, Patrick's and Judith's second son. The attached picture, taken in 1910 at St. Peters, Nova Scotia has Patrick's and Judith's grandson (my grandfather) with his family on the day he bought a large home that had many bedrooms, a dining room, a parlour and a music room with a piano, an organ and a large harp. My father (1894-1980) sixteen years old at the time is at the far right, next to my grandfather Daniel Coffey (1854-1922)."



Photo via John Coffey, Nova Scotia, CA
His father last on right; grandfather Daniel
to his right.

Jack, thank you for sending your family info and, especially for the photograph. I wonder if you have thought about a DNA test to see how your ancestors might be related to Edward Coffey, or other early Coffey emigrants/indentured servants to the US? You can get more info without obligation from Fred Coffey (fredcoffey@aol.com)

I received the following from Kathy Coffee Simmons, sister to Ilah Coffee Merriman who prepared the report:

Coffee/Coffey Reunion Association of the 19th Annual International Gathering Of the Clan Macfie

This is the report to the Coffey/Coffee Reunion Association of the 19th Annual International Gathering of Clan Macfie, September 4-11, 2013. Five Coffee girls attended the Gathering in Dumfries, Scotland. We had a marvelous time. In the picture are Crystal Morgan on the right, next to her is Ilah Merriman, Shiona MacFie MacKay from Edinburgh, and Lynn Morgan. Standing behind the table are Pamela Merriman and Mary Ann Morgan Dyson. It was so nice to have lots of Coffees there. We represented you very well.

The Gathering is also a Parliament where Clan business is taken care of. There were Macfies from Sweden, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, America, England, Ireland, and Scotland. There were about 90 people present for the Gathering. The dignitaries all marched in with banners and flags of their countries. Ilah held high the plaque of COFFEY/COFFEE and placed it in the front with the banners. We 5 girls discussed that we might take a Texas flag next time since our Association started in Texas. Commander Iain opened the Parliament for business. There was a prayer in Gaelic and English. Reports were read from the various officers and committees.

Ilah read the report of the 77th Annual Coffey/Coffee Reunion Association. Pamela read her report as the Chairman of the Art and Music Committee. She introduced a book that she created of poems, songs, stories, etc. from various Macfie Clan members. The second day of meetings consisted of Committee meetings. Lynn is on the Committee for Tartans. Crystal and Pamela are on the Committee for Arts. Ilah is on the Committee for Trusts and Finance. It was announced that the next Parliament will be in 2017 on the Isle of Skye at the Gaelic College. There will be a Gathering before 2017 known as a Mini-Gathering. It will be on the north island of New Zealand, October 2014. It will be the 30th annual celebration of the Macfie Society of New Zealand. Everyone is invited to attend. In addition to the Parliament with its business meeting, we had a lot of fun.

Each evening there was an entertainment and dinner. The Scots do know how to have a party. Several tours were planned of the Dumfries area for those who wanted to see more of the sights. Buses were filled to see Hadrian's Wall, Gretna Green, the Lake District, New Abbey, John Paul Jones' cottage, Ellisland farm which was worked by Robert Burns, etc. Dumfries is a charming small town of 40,000 people and the one time home of Robert Burns. A walk around town was easily done with a visit to the home of Robert Burns, and Greyfriars Church. This is also the area where Robert the Bruce is purported to have stabbed his rival at the alter of the church and ended the claim of John Balliol to the throne of Scotland.

After the Parliament was over the Morgan family, Lyn, Crystal, and Mary Ann went north to Inverness and were entertained by the Editor of the Clan newsletter, Ann Johnston. They enjoyed Inverness. Pam left for a cruise with friends. Ilah went with about 30 clan members to the Isle of Colonsay. Colonsay is a small island that was once the Clan home, about 1000AD to 1623AD. Many hiked and cycled and searched for the remains of the castle and several forts.

A new plaque was attached to the standing stone where our last clan Chief, Malcolm Macfie was killed in 1623. Some walked across the low tide water to the Isle of Oronsay to see the ancient priory that was the religious headquarters and burial place of early Macfie/MacDuffie priors and religious leaders. Ceildhs* [sic] were held at the hotel, there was shopping and fun dinners. I was a lovely end to a successful Parliament and Gathering.

Thanks, Ilah

Anyone interested in more info about the clan can contact Ilah at icmerriman@aol.com.

*I think this is Céilidh, a traditional Gaelic social gathering.

News you can use

Claire Santry edits an *Irish Genealogy* blog designed "To get the message across..." to others "that their Irish genealogy might be within their grasp." Her website is located at www.Irish-Genealogy-Toolkit.com. Her blog can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/n6bln6m>

The Genealogy Today website, located at <http://www.news.genealogytoday.com> offers "news from a variety of other sources" to readers who sign up to receive *The Genealogy News* by e-mail. There are daily as well as weekly subscription options available.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE INDEX UPDATED

By Fred Coffey

R. Reams Goodloe Sr. has once again updated his fantastic index of all Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse newsletters. It is now updated through Issue #128. This index, and access to all 128 issues, is available at the following:

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

This index is a fantastic piece of work! It contains 30,000 lines of information, and makes 48,000 references to entries in the 128 newsletters.

On average each newsletter required 375 new reference entries in the index. I checked the individual counts back for the last 20 years, and found the record was Issue #60 (September 1995) which required 754 new references! But Reams' job is getting easier: The last 4 newsletters only required an average of 111 new entries each!*

Many thanks to Reams for this fantastic effort!

*Ed. Note: And, I was shooting for quantity. What a disappointment! ☺

Reunion Update:

Donna has made arrangements for us to have our reunion dinner at the MCL Cafeteria in Speedway, IN. We need at least 20 people for a family style buffet, otherwise everyone will have to go through the regular serving line. Address for the restaurant is 6002 Crawfordsville Rd., Indianapolis. Donna says it is straight down Hwy 136 from Brownsburg about 6 miles, on the left.

Cost is \$20 per person. Please send your reservations to Donna Wolfe Hoy, 1310 LN W, Brownsburg, IN 56112.

See more details on following page.

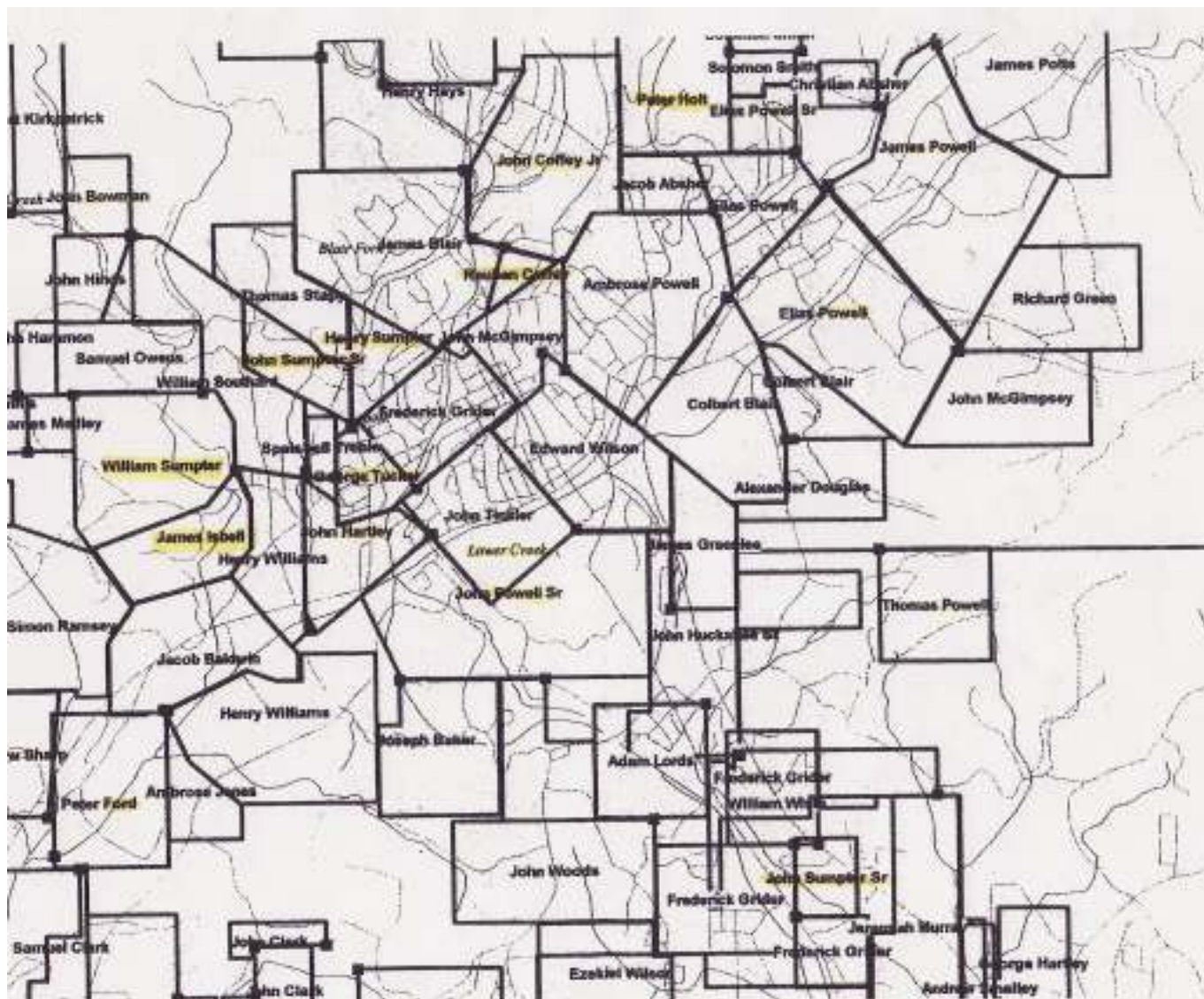
**Update on Titian James Coffey
(Vol. 126, Page 3-4)**

Bruce Coffee (brucecoffey3@gmail.com) wrote to add to the limited info that I had on Dr. Coffey.

1. The Titian in your post was my great, great grandfather, a subject about which I only heard casual family references as a youngster.
2. He was born December, 5th, 1824 in Huntingdon, PA and was the son of a leading physician in Central Pennsylvania.
3. He was admitted to the bar at St. Louis, MO in 1845, but returned to Pennsylvania where he practiced law. He was also active in the founding of the Republican party during the 1850's, and served as a State Senator for three years. In March, 1861 he was appointed Assistant Attorney-General of the United States.
4. Among other issues during his tenure as Assistant Attorney-General, he was the author of the opinion of the Attorney General declaring the right of men of color to receive full pay as officers in the Army.
5. He resigned his position 1864, but continued to represent the Government in their cases before the Supreme Court.
6. When Attorney General Bates resigned his office after Mr. Lincoln's second election, Bates urged Titian as his successor; but, Mr. Lincoln, needing a cabinet member from the South, appointed James Speed of Kentucky.
7. He served briefly as Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg for President Grant in 1869-70, and as of 1873 in Washington had resumed his work with the Supreme Court. (my source for all of the above is a book published in 1889 titled Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln by Distinguished Men of His Time, edited by Allen Thorndike Rice).
8. Titian died 11 January 1897 in Pennsylvania (source Ancestry.com).

9. Titian's only child was Harry T. Coffey, whose only child was Titian James Coffey, a physician, whose only child was Marvin Keating Coffey, my father, a lawyer. Keating was born in Los Angeles in 1911, and died in Aspen, Colorado in 1971. His wife was Virginia Elizabeth McFie of Los Angeles, and his two children are myself, Lyman Bruce Coffey, born August 26, 1941 in Los Angeles, and my older brother, Malcolm Keating Coffey, born April 10, 1939.

Ed. Note: Bruce, thanks for this update. I wonder if you have considered a DNA test to determine if you do descend from Edward through Titian? You can contact Fred Coffey (fredcoffey@aol.com) for more information about the test, costs, etc.



This was received from Doug Land (wdforte@msn.com) and is a map of part of Lenoir, Caldwell Co., NC showing property ownership. Note there are only a few of Coffeys shown. However, many of the others are collateral lines.

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.



Next years reunion will be hosted by Donna Wolfe Hoy at the Comfort Suites hotel in Brownsburg, IN, from April 24-26th, 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 15th, 2014. A special rate for Coffey Cousins' is \$79/night. After March 15th, 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.

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. Feel free to contact me at jack.coffee@gmail.com for information about Coffeys in Indiana.





Special Christmas Edition

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse Newsletter
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