

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981
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Editor: Jack K. Coffee

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President's Message

Hello Coffey-Coffee Cousins,

Well, our 2014 Convention is now history, and those of you that did not make it, you missed a very enjoyable and relaxing time. My personal thanks to Donna and Jon Hoy for all the time they put in for the plans for our enjoyment.

The trip to Indiana Historical Society was nothing short of fabulous. They had exhibits that took you back in time, and we got to see how they restored, preserved and stored historic documents.

We are sorry that you are stuck with the same officers for another year, perhaps we will have more attend next year and will be able to get a new corps. We are not settled on a date or location for next year, but it may be in Morristown, Tn. area. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Danny and Glenda Coffey

Editor's Comments



Bennie Coffey Loftin, long time CC supporter, has passed away. She suffered a debilitating stroke and died on Apr. 7, 2014. Read her obituary at <http://tinyurl.com/opqm85o>

Note: I do not maintain a separate bank account for newsletters I mail. Please make checks payable to Jack Coffee and not to Coffey Cousins'.

Follow me on Twitter @CoffeyCousins

Donations Gratefully Accepted

Please help offset expense of maintaining this website..

Famous Quotes

He who has no fools, knaves or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning. Old English Proverb

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The 2014 Coffey Cousins' Reunion



This year's reunion, the 30th in the history of the group, gathered in Brownsburg, IN, just a few minutes to the west of Indianapolis, from Thur., Apr. 24 through Saturday, Apr. 27. Twenty cousins attended, some from as far away as Washington State. Donna Wolfe Hoy was our hostess, greatly assisted by her husband Jon and grandson, Alexander Clark.

In addition to Donna, Jon and Alexander* and me and Nelda, others attending were Danny and Glenda Coffey (KY); Larry and Mary Coffey (NJ); Tom Coffee (MN), Nancy Scott and Kathy Whitson (IL), Cindy Marriott (WA), Linda and Chuck Maki (WA), Wayne and Jean Mower (DE), Sharon and Dawn King* (IN), and Ella Tunnell* (IN).

Donna arranged for us to tour the Indiana Historical Society building – really an edifice – with personal guidance from a number of employees and volunteers. They showed us their state of the art book and photo restoration lab, a tour through their closed stacks where temperature and humidity are closely monitored and controlled and, a visit to the Cole Porter (IN native) Room where we were treated to any number of his songs by a talented young lady accompanied by a computer controlled player piano.

There were also several interactive rooms where we met famous IN natives. One such character was that of African-American physician Dr. Harvey Middleton in his office on June 24, 1939 where he told us about his purchase and use of the first EKG machine in the city. We were also able to visit with and talk to victims of the 1913 flood in the Wulf's Hall Relief Station on the west side of Indianapolis. And finally, we were treated to the 1904 photographic studio of Charles Minor where we had a vintage group portrait taken.

The society is well represented on the web at www.indianahistory.org.

*Missing from photo

Rev. Henry Davis Coffey

Rev. Coffey was a son of Andrew J. and Rebecca E. Campbell Coffey, born Nov. 1861 in Nelson Co., VA. He died on Sep. 6, 1947 at Lynchburg, VA and was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery in that city.

The Rev. was married twice. His first wife was Lucia Susan A. Campbell, born May 22, 1866 to Francis Jefferson Campbell III and wife, N. Catherine Stover. She and Henry were married on Jan. 22, 1885 in Nelson Co. She died on Oct. 24, 1918 in Lynchburg after giving birth to seven children between 1887 and 1904.

The children were:

Rev. Leonard Newton, 1887-1958, married Minnie Ethel Magann Dec. 27, 1911 in Buena Vista, VA. She was a daughter of Samuel D. and Pinkey Eveline Andrew Magann, born Dec. 10, 1893 in VA and died there on Jul. 1, 1985. Three children: Louise Ethel; Dorothy Virginia and Leonard, Jr.

Pearl May, born May 13, 1889 in VA, died on Aug. 30, 1961 in Richmond. She married Rev. Walter Hoy Leake on Dec. 25, 1909 in Lynchburg. He was born on Oct. 4, 1886 in VA, died in Lynchburg on Jun. 29, 1966. Eight children: Ralph M.; Earl C.; John H.; Ruby M.; Walter, Jr.; Franklin; Arthur B. and Donald E.

Roy Temperance, born Feb. 23, 1891 in Nelson Co., died in Bristol, Sullivan Co., TN on Mar. 4, 1955. His wife was Olive Pearl Hunt, born c1895 in VA. Five children: Cyril R., born c1913; William Davis, born c1915, married Evelyn Margaret Sutherland; Charles L., born c1918; Robert J., born c1922 and Donald E., born c1924, all in VA.

Lester Francis, born Sep. 13, 1893, died Jan. 3, 1916 in Petersburg, VA

Clyde Elmore, born Feb. 13, 1896 in VA, died Jan. 22, 1968 in that state. He married first to Elsie Conner Mahler on Dec. 6, 1915 in Lynchburg. Five children: Clyde, Jr., married Ruby Woodward; Harold, Ruth, John and Lois. Clyde and Elsie divorced sometime around 1930 and he married a lady by the name of Nellie. Elsie moved to Norfolk and eventually married again to Joseph Michael Boyhan in 1934. She died on Dec. 25, 1960 in Norfolk. He died on Jul. 5, 1990 in Greensboro, NC. See <http://tinyurl.com/odj3b5t> for more information.

Raymond Anderson, born Aug. 25, 1900, married Josephine D. Powers on Aug. 12, 1922. No further information.

Shelby Hopwood, born May 17, 1904, died Dec. 9, 1989. Married Virginia Claudine Wilson c1930. No further information.

Rev. Henry's second wife was Erma Lee Duggins, a daughter of James W. and Annie B. Bagby Duggins, born 1887 in Louisa Co., VA. They were married in that county on Jul. 14, 1920. I know of only one child born to this union, a daughter named Alice Marie.

Henry filed for and received a patent, no. 318,451 in 1885. The invention for which he received the patent was a "new and useful Improvements in Scales;..." That is, he designed a scale "to weigh ounces

pilot, Ensign George H. Gay survived.

Coffey was scheduled to fly with his squadron on the morning of the attack but, a friend and fellow torpedoman by the name of Lyonal J. Orgeron asked if he could take Coffey's seat. William agreed and Lyonal became one of the day's casualties. Through the chaos of battle, the War Department reported to his family that Coffey was missing. It was not until 19 days later that the mistake was discovered, much to the relief of William's family.

William Lawson Coffey, Jr. survived the remainder of the war and later served during the Korean War. He was born May 21, 1908 at Alanthus Grove, Gentry Co., MO and died Sep. 24, 1978 at Sun City in Riverside Co., CA. He was not buried until Nov. 24, 1978 when the new Riverside National Cemetery began accepting burials. He married Jeanette Louise Caroline Swore, born Nov. 27, 1917 in Polk Co., MN, died Sep. 2, 1996 in Van Nuys, Los Angeles Co., CA. They were parents of two daughters: Susan Coffey Wooten who supplied the photograph and other documents on William's family and Donna Jean Coffey Bergmeister of Pollock Pines, CA.

If you visit the *USS Yorktown* now anchored at Charleston, SC, you will find a plaque containing the names of 16 lost officers and radio-gunners of VT-8 on display. The third name down in the left column is that of William. The mistake has not been corrected.

William's brother, Otto Marion Coffey also served his country in the US Navy during WW2. Otto was born on Jun. 4, 1910 in Alanthus Grove and died on May 7, 1971 in San Francisco, CA. He was buried at Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Hollywood, Los Angeles.

For the interested, the Midway battle action report to Admiral Nimitz is available at <http://tinyurl.com/lazsq6l>

The Orgeron surname is one typically found in south Louisiana. My curiosity about Lyonel was finally satisfied when I discovered that he was Lyonel Joseph Orgeron, the son of Clement and Melodia Orgeron of Donaldsonville in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. He was born there in 1922 and was probably just 19 or 20 years old on the day he died at Midway. His name appears in the *World War II Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Casualties, 1941-1945* in the summary of war casualties. It reads that he was an "Aviation Ordnanceman 3c USN Mother: Mrs. Melodia G. Orgeron of 938 Felicity St., New Orleans, LA." Lionel is listed on the *Tablets of the Missing* at the Honolulu Memorial in Honolulu, HI. Through his sacrifice, he earned the Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Old Newspaper Items

**MARSHALL—REPUBLICAN, VOL. IX. MARSHALL. SALINE COUNTY, MISSOURI. JUNE 3. 1900.
NO. 13.**

SUICIDE IN HIS CELL.

**James Coffey, a Farmer, Hangs Himself While
Confined in the City Jail. Insanity
the Cause.**

Fatalities have become most frequent happenings about Marshall in the past few weeks. Suicide and other manner of death follow so fast upon the tread of each other that they occasion little talk and less excitement. The last sensational happening of this nature, occurred Tuesday morning, an inmate of the city jail ending his life by hanging himself.

James Coffey was the suicide. He was formerly a farmer living about 4 1/2 miles northeast of Marshall,

one-half mile west of Capt. Elliott's farm. Since his family moved to Missouri from Tennessee, he had been regarded as an honest, sober and hard working man, though rather peculiar in his ways. During the night of Wednesday, May 31st, he left his home, and was found on the Miami road near Fairville, wandering about next day, his mind seriously affected. Mr. Matt Hall, who happened along, observed his condition and brought him to Marshall, where he was turned over to the custody of the sheriff.

Coffey seemed to return to his reason some what, and his trial before the Probate court led to the opinion that he would soon regain his mind completely. He was therefore ordered held in charge for a few days, when if recovery followed he was to be released and allowed to return home. As the county had no suitable place for his confinement, the city officers took him to the jail quarters of the city hall, where in the day time he was allowed the freedom of the corridor.

The prisoner, who in his ravings, imagined himself pursued by a threatening mob, was visited on Monday afternoon by his wife, who brought him a pie wrapped in a tea towel. Monday night and Tuesday morning his actions evidenced a more violent insanity. At 9:30 Tuesday morning, keeper of the jail, Brice, when accompanying a lady visitor to his cell, discovered Coffey hanging from the upper birth of his cell, his body suspended by means of the tea-towel tied around his neck and attached to the lattice work of the birth.

Assistance was at once called, little Charley Herndon cutting the cloth by which he hung, but the insane man was lifeless. The upper birth is only about five feet from the floor, and Coffey, in order to accomplish his death, had thrown his feet from under him allowing the weight of his body to produce a choking death.

The coroner was notified and summoned a jury at once which returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by "hanging himself with a towel," signed by Jno. Cunningham, foreman; J. R. Plynu, W. D. Black, A. J. Graves, M. T. Campbell and N. F. Randolph.

His body was removed to the undertaking rooms and thence to his home on the farm, the burial taking place Wednesday at Shiloh. He was a heavy, rather tall, well built man, aged about forty-five years, with sandy hair, beard and mustache. He leaves a wife and four children who mourn deeply the loss of a father not responsible for this act of suicide in his demented condition.

Note: This was James T. Coffey who was born c1852 in Tennessee. His wife was Sarah E. Moore Coffey, born c1861 in Missouri. They appeared in the 1900 Marshall Twp., Saline Co., MO census. Their children then (all born in MO) were Grover C., born c1885; Hattie, born c1887; Joseph, born c1889; James Q., born c1875 in KY and a lodger, John Davison, age 29, born in MO. James was enumerated as James P., age 48, born in TN. Sarah was enumerated as head of household, likely meaning that James was already known to be somewhat incapacitated.

Who were James' parents?

[Source: United States Census, 1900," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/M3D6-R5P> : accessed 10 Mar 2014), James P Coffey in household of Sarah E Coffey, Marshall Township (excl. Marshall city, incl. Missouri Valley College), Saline, Missouri, United States; citing sheet , family 290, NARA microfilm publication T623, FHL microfilm 1240902]

A Lamented Death.

From *The Watchman and Southron*, Sumter, SC, Feb. 5, 184, Page 1

There has been recently in Greenville, South Carolina, the death of a lady, one of the old landmarks of Carolina, whose removal is as notable an event as the decease of Mrs. ex-Governor Herschell V.

Johnson in this State.

This lady was Mrs. Mary Blassingame Cleveland, who, though dying in Greenville, was a citizen of Spartanburg. She was born April 4th, 1797, and died January 4th, 1881, and was therefore in her 87th year. Her father was General John Blassingame, who was raised on the Pedee River in South Carolina. General Blassingame, located in Greenville, and married March 22, 1704, Miss Elizabeth Smith Easley, who came from Virginia. He was made a general in 1812. He was noted for his hospitality, was very popular and was a member of the Legislature.

The daughter, Mary Blassingame, whose demise I am noting, was married to Jessie Cleveland, August 9th, 1814. Jessie Cleveland was a son of Robert Cleveland and a nephew of the famous hero of King's Mountain, Colonel Benjamin Cleveland. Hubert, Jesse's father, was a brother of Benjamin Cleveland, and commanded a company in his regiment at King's Mountain. All of these Clevelands were marked men, distinguished for solid judgment, practical wisdom and integrity of character.

The union of Jesse Cleveland and Mary Blassingame was a long and happy one as well as a mating of the best blood of Carolina. He died universally respected and beloved and the possessor of large means, earned by his own enterprise and business ability and honesty. Mrs. Cleveland was a noble Christian woman, a worthy help-mate to her husband, whom she survived over twenty years. She lived to a ripe old age, revered and loved by all, and lamented by a large family of descendants, dropping into the gentle peace of a beautiful death as an infant going to slumber, her life fully ripened and Heaven faithfully won as the goal of a Christian career.

Of seven children only two survived, Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Emily Choice, of Spartanburg, and Mrs. Mary H. Cleveland, of Greenville, who were both with her at her death, tenderly nursing her. She left nearly fifty grand children and great-grand children. The wife of Col John H. Evins, a present member of Congress from South Carolina, Mr. John B. Cleveland, a member of the last South Carolina Legislature, the wife of W. Hagood, of the family of Governor Hagood, and the wives of Mr. B. Z. Herndon and Col. I. W. Avery of Georgia, were among the grand-children of Mrs. Cleveland. Mrs. Cleveland was born and died at Greenville. In her last moments she gave a touching demonstration of her characteristic thoughtfulness of others. Her mind wandered to the past and she thought she was keeping house at her old homestead in Spartanburg, and she would often say : "I ought to go back and look after my poor negroes, I know they need me."

Thus are the worthy ties that bind us to the best elements of the past one by one breaking.

Robert Henry and Minnie Mabel Biddy Coffey

The *Wylie News*, Wylie, Collin Co., TX, Thur., Jun 3, 1948, Vol. 1, No. 12, Page 1

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Coffey Move to Wylie After Living in Lucas Community 60 Years

New residents of the city of Wylie are Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Coffey who have just completed a very fine new home on Highway 78 and are living in it now. New to the citizens of Wylie, but very well known to the Collin County residents of the community of Lucas because this fine couple made their home in that part of the county for over 50 years - in fact for almost all of their lives.

Mr. R. H. Coffey was born in Lucas in a log house in the year 1868. He was the second child of a family of nine of whom there are now six living children. His father was a farmer in the community and was at one time the Sheriff of Collin County. Mr. Coffey now owns and has lived on the farm which his grandfather headrighted [sic] from the Government of Texas with it was a Republic. This particular farm

has never been out of the hand of the Coffey family from the time it was headrighted. His mother died when he was 40 years old, and his father and two uncles died soon thereafter. It was a coincidence that his father and two uncles died within 72 hours of each others death.

Mrs. Coffey was born in Riceville [McMinn Co.], Tennessee in the year 1875 [1874 in 1900 census] one of twelve children born to her mother and father. At the age of five the family left Tennessee and moved to Kansas where they stayed for another five years and then moved to Collin County. The father of the family died when she was nine years of age and the mother died in the year 1923.

The couple was married in the community of Lucas at the ages of 18 and 24 and made Lucas their hime until they recently moved to Wylie. Mr. Lucas and [sic] was the post master of that community.

To this union there was born four children, two boys and two girls, all of whom are still living. Pete Coffey of Wylie, Tressie Osburn of Brownfield (who is planning on moving to Wylie in the near future) Hallie Biggs of Lucas and Ed Coffey of McKinney. There are six grandchildren in this family.

Their son Pete went to the same school in Lucas as did his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffey are Baptists and have belonged to the Lucas Baptist church since they were converted when they were both very young.

They report that they are enjoying their new home and that it is mighty fine to be living in Wylie where all the conveniences are available to them and they are close to their son, Pete. This is the first new home they have ever lived in and it is mighty fine looking little home, one that anyone would be ampply [sic] proud to call their home. To this fine couple, the News wishes them the very most in happiness and many years of good life to come. Wylie welcomes them to our midst.

Editor's note: Robert was the son of William Stanley and Sarah Elisabeth Lucas Coffey. Minnie was a daughter of George and Edna McDonald Biddy. William descended from the mythical Chesley through Salathiel and Elizabeth Gore Coffey; Elias "Eli" and his spouse (and first cousin) Mary Coffey (daughter of Eli's brother Nathan and his wife Mary Saunders; Salathiel and Nancy Dunbar Coffey, parents of William Stanley.

I have four children for Robert and Minnie: Clarence Milton; Tressie A., Hallie Elizabeth and Edgar Biddy. Pete appears to be a nickname for either Clarence or Edgar.

Robert and Minnie were married on Dec. 18, 1892 in McKinney. He died on Apr. 13, 1950 at home in McKinney*. Minnie died Feb. 20, 1968 at Wysong Hospital in McKinney*. Both are buried at the Fitzhugh Cemetery in Forest Grove, Collin Co.

*Source is death certificate

The Sunday Oregonian, Portland, Or. Jun. 28, 1908, Section Four, Page 5

REFUSES PITTANCE TO GIRL

D. COFFEY ACCUSED OF FRAUDING DAUGHTER.

Well-to-Do Contractor In Court for Failing to Provide \$10 Monthly as Ordered.

D. D. Coffey, a building contractor, was accused In the State Circuit Court yesterday of plotting with his

fourth wife to defraud his own 11-year-old daughter out of \$160. Presiding Judge Gantenbein said he was convinced the father was trying to beat the child out of the money, and intimated that, unless the matter was fixed up by next Wednesday, Coffey might expect punishment for contempt of court.

The mother of the child is Coffey's third divorced wife. She got a divorce from Coffey more than a year ago and the court at that time ordered Coffey to pay \$10 a month towards the support of the child. The payments have not been forthcoming. Coffey was haled [sic] into court on supplemental proceedings and subjected to a trying examination as to his financial condition. He said at the outset he was not able to pay the amount, small as it was.

But the examination of Coffey developed, much against his will, that he is in a most prosperous condition, even though everything he has is in the name of wife No. 4. It was brought out that he has built two houses worth \$3000 apiece, and is just completing two others worth about \$2400 each. While these houses belong to wife No. 4 ostensibly and are mortgaged for \$5200, the surplus above the mortgage is \$5600. Coffey said that wife No. 4 had \$1000 when he married her last March.

Coffey attempted to maintain that he is and has been in straitened circumstances for some time. He said his profits as a building contractor were barely enough to get along on and protested that since his fourth marriage, last March, he has been unable to give his present wife more than \$90.

When the examination of Coffey had been completed, Judge Gantenbein said he was convinced that Coffey and his fourth wife were trying to defraud the little girl. He said he believed Coffey was guilty of contempt of court in not having paid the child. In continuing the case, the Judge said he hoped that would allow sufficient time in which to get the tangle straightened out.

You are our living link to the past. Tell your grandchildren the story of the struggles waged, at home and abroad. Of sacrifices made for freedom's sake. And tell them your own story as well — because [everybody] has a story to tell. George H. W. Bush, State of the Union Address, 1990

The Morning Oregonian, Portland, OR, Mar. 19, 1909, Page 14

ALIMONY MUST BE PAID

WIFE NO. 1 CAMPS ON TRAIL OF COFFEY AND WIFE NO. 2.

Alleges He Gave Present Spouse Diamonds, but Did Not Deliver Money Ordered by Court.

D. D. Coffey, at one time Assessor in Marlon County, and his wife, Margaret M. Coffey, must pay Carrie W. Coffey, Coffey's former wife, \$160 alimony. This was the decision of Circuit Judge Gatens [sic] yesterday afternoon. Coffey obtained a divorce from Mrs. Carrie Coffey in February, 1907. The decree carried with it alimony of \$10 a month. When her ex-husband failed to pay, Mrs. Carrie Coffey brought suit, obtained judgment for \$160 and the Sheriff was directed to levy an execution of Coffey's property. But he could find none on which to levy, so Mrs. Coffey brought suit against her ex-husband and his present wife, charging them with having conspired to defraud his creditors. The complaint charged that various tracts of land in Vernon were bought by Coffey and his second wife but that they were all placed in her name.

Mrs. Margaret Coffey, whom Mrs. Carrie Coffey says is otherwise known as Maggie South, said on the witness stand yesterday that she had \$1000 when she married Coffey. He was to manage the real estate transactions and upon the interest of their investments they were to pay expenses.

Mrs. Coffey No. 2 said that her first husband, whose name was Montgomery, failed to support her, so she secured a divorce from him on Washington's Birthday, 1906. She married Coffey at Everett, Wash., in March, 1907. After obtaining her divorce from Montgomery, she said she worked in logging and mining camps and in restaurants as a cook until she had accumulated \$1000. She said she was at work in the logging camps for about three months. The testimony showed that although Coffey was able to give his second wife a \$25 diamond as a Christmas present in 1907, he had not paid his first wife's alimony.

Editor's note: Denton Darby Coffey was a son of German J. and Mary Margaret Smith Coffey and, a grandson of Nebuzaradan and Elizabeth Easley Coffey, early Oregon Territory pioneers. Denton died on Sep. 13, 1921 in OR and is buried at the Rose City Cemetery in Portland. The Edward Coffey Project is incomplete as pertains to his three or four wives. Please help if any reader can provide additional information.

The Coffey and Logan Families of Mulvane, KS

This adds to the article which appeared in Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse newsletter, issue no. 127, Jul-Sep 2013, page 4, about Thomas Jackson "Stonewall" Coffey.

Salathiel Coffey, an alleged descendant of the mythical Chesley Coffey: Salathiel and wife Elizabeth Gore had a number of children, including Elias "Eli," said to have been born May 8, 1775 in Wilkes Co., NC. Elias married his first cousin, Mary Coffey, eldest child and daughter of Nathan and Mary Saunders Coffey; Nathan being a younger brother to Salathiel.

Elias and Mary also had a number of children including eighth born Stanton P., said to have been born on Dec. 5, 1819 in Adair Co., KY. Stanton is reported to have married Mary C. Saufley but, I have found no record to support that. Neither have I found a death date nor a burial site for either of them.

Their ninth born child, a male named Thomas Jackson "Stonewall" Coffey was born Sep. 20, 1866 in Denmark, Russell Co., KY. Thomas and his brother Robert Lee Coffey appear to have been twins. Thomas died on Dec. 28, 1945, probably in Sumner Co., KS and was buried at Belle Plaine Cemetery in that county.

Thomas married Mattie Payne c1897. She was born on Jul. 8, 1866 in Russell Co., KY to William Pigg Payne and Mary Jane Tarter. Mattie died on Jul. 24, 1951 in Harper Co., KS and is also buried at Belle Plaine.

One of their sons was William Jackson Coffey, born Dec. 17, 1897 in Denmark, died Jul. 1, 1993 in Mulvane. William married Pauline Myrtle Logan c1925 in KS. William died in 1993 and Pauline a year earlier, both at Mulvane.

The photo of James Cleo Logan and his oxen was provided by Kevin Coffey of Franklin, TN. James was the eldest child and son of Frederick William and Alta May Cheatham Logan. He was born on Oct. 5, 1895 in Mulvane, Sumner Co., KS and died on Jan. 2, 1982 in Neosho, Newton Co., MO. He is buried at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Neosho.

He was also brother to Pauline Myrtle Logan who was married in KS to William Jackson Coffey c1925.



This photo was likely taken at a heritage or pioneer fest in Mulvane, Sumner Co., KS. The other man in the photo is Frederick William Logan, father of James. Photo courtesy of Kevin Coffey.



This family photo was probably taken about 1939 when William would have been about 12 and Dorothy about 11. Charles was born 1934 and Betty was c1937. Their last known child was Mary, born 1940 but does not appear to have been born at the time this photo was taken. Photo courtesy of Kevin Coffey

Cleveland Coffey, son of Jesse & Margaret Edmisten Coffey

Husband of Susan Hayes, Malinda Coffey and Mary Ann Miles

North Carolina } Probate Court
Caldwell County } Oct 20th 1869

To the judge of said court:

The petition of D. P. Mast respectfully shows that Cleaveland [sic] Coffey died during the month of April 1862 intestate leaving his surviving Mary A. Coffey his wife, and Jackson Coffey of Ozark Co., Mo. Susan Webb formerly Coffey, Mitchell Co. NC, Holland Coffey, Bulls Gap Tenn, Elvira Coffey, Globe NC; Mahala Coffey Catawba Co., Fannie Coffey, Mitchell Co., Perry Coffey, Mitchell, Sarah Coffey, Napoleon Coffey and Jesse Coffey, Globe NC, his children and only his at law and that Perry, Sarah, Napoleon and Jesse Coffey are infants under twenty one years of age and without any guardian. Your petitioner further shows that Mary A. Coffey, widow of the deceased has renounced [sic] the right to administer on her husbands estate. That said estate consists of about 50 acres of land more or less worth about \$100 and personal property in his stock to the value of \$150. And your petitioner further shows that after the renunciation of the widow he is next entitled to administer _?_ said estate being the largest creditor against the same, and therefore asks your honor to grant him letter of administration according to law, and your petitioner should even pray.

D. P. Mast
Petitioner

Sworn and Subscribed before me this October 20th 1869

R. R. Wollefield [?] Judge of Probate



John Wesley Redwine (1866-1936)

In Issue 33 of this newsletter, page 9, we find that Sarah Coffey, a daughter of Martin Coffey, married John Wesley Redwine on Jul. 12, 1897 in Grayson Co., TX.* John was previously married to Rebecca Ann Rutledge but, a marriage record has not been found. Sarah may also have been previously married. There is in Denton Co., TX a marriage record for Scotland Brown to Sallie Coffee [sic] on May 4, 1897. Some unsourced genealogies that I have seen give his name as Billie Brown.

John was born on Mar. 3, 1866 in Cedar Springs, Dallas Co., TX and were in Grayson Co. in 1900, Cleveland Co., in 1910, Pottawatomie Co., OK in 1920 and in McClain Co., OK in 1930. John died in Shawnee, Pottawatomie Co. in 1936 and is buried at the Prairie View Cemetery in Macomb, Pottawatomie Co.

Photos courtesy of Jackie R. Redwine

* "Texas Marriages, 1837-1977" index, FamilySearch
<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/FX92-3XX>



Incoming Mail

Nancy Williams [nwilliams@prestonwoodchristian.org] wrote to remind us that she attended the Coffey Cousins' reunion in Vicksburg and again the following year in Dallas, where she lives. Nancy wants to "develop our branch of the Coffees." Her grandfather was Edward Lafayette Coffee [sic], born in Boone, AR in the 1800's. She believes he died sometime in the 1930's in Corpus Christi, TX and is buried in an unmarked grave in Dripping Springs Cemetery, near Austin. She thinks he might be buried next to his father, Charles Linus Coffey [sic]. Nancy believes that her branch of the family tree came from County Cork and perhaps landed at Charlotte, SC because they have always lived in the southern US. Please contact Nancy if you can help with her research. She also gave Willco6@att.net as a "home email" address.

In August 2008, Janine Ramsey [jeders2@fuse.net] wrote to tell me that she had found the maiden name of the wife of Rice Coffey (born c1802 in NC to Levi & Dorothy (Dolly) Edmundson Coffey. She had located the death certificate for Doratha [sic] Kilpatrick whose parents were named as Rice Coffey and Dartha Jane Medaris. See the Edward Coffey Project blog of Aug. 12, 2008 which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/gghelu6>. In April this year, Paula Tilmon [tilmon.paula9907@att.net] sent e-mail discussing Silas M. Green, a son of John "Moccasin" Greene [sic] and Elizabeth B. Coffey of North Carolina. Elizabeth, born c1776, was a daughter of Reuben and Sarah Scott Coffey. Silas was born May 11, 1810 in Burke Co., NC, the seventh of 10 children. His wife was Susan Elizabeth Medaris, born Jun. 11, 1809, also in Burke Co. He died on Aug. 7, 1892 in NC; she on Mar. 9, 1903, also in NC. Nancy, a sister to Silas, married James Coffey of Cherokee Co., NC whose parents were Levi and Dolly Edmundson Coffey. Another sister, Sarah Green married William Clayton Coffey of Caldwell Co., NC. William was a son of Jesse and Margaret Edmisten Coffey. Daniel, brother to Silas married Sarah, a sister to Susan Medaris while another brother, Thomas, married Ellender Medaris. Silas' sister Eleanor married Isaac Moody.

Mike Dixon [cmiked53@yahoo.com]] wrote to DNA Guru Fred Coffey [fredcoffey@aol.com] about his Coffey line. Mike's ggg-grandmother was Elizabeth Coffey, born 1810 in Wilkes Co., NC and married John Scarborough on Feb. 15, 1830, also in Wilkes Co. This family moved from Wilkes Co. to Hawkins Co., TN sometime between 1841 and 1845 where a Benjamin Coffey, son of John and Jane Graves Coffey also lived. Mike thinks that Elizabeth and Benjamin have some connection but what kind? Please contact Mike if you can help him sort out his genealogy.

Jo Langwell (jolangwell@tx.rr.com) wrote to Bonnie Culley to tell her that she has been in poor health over the past few years. Old timers might recall that Jo hosted Coffey Cousins' in Dallas several years ago which included a trip to the Southfork Ranch, "home" of the Ewings of "Dallas," the tv show and, where we were treated to a delicious steak BBQ supper. Jo included the obituary of Millie Coffey, widow of Bernard M. (Bernie) Coffey, former "cousins." It is a bit long to publish here but, I'll be happy to send it to anyone who requests it.

Miscellaneous "Stuff"

I am really interested in publishing your research goals. Who are your ancestors and when/where did they live? What are your "Dead End Roads?" Formatted something like this will be fine:

Coffee, Jack - Lilburn Jackson Coffee (1822-1877) VA, KY, TN, AR – May be son of Hardy Mills (1763-1841) NC, GA, TN, IN

Coffey Surname DNA Project

By Fred Coffey

From previous articles, you know you can find our primary Project web page at www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA

However this discussion kind of jumps into details, without actually explaining what is being tested. If you want a more basic background and an overview of testing options, have a look at the following. You can view this online, or if you prefer print it:

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNAbasics2014.pdf

Also in past articles, I have indicated an expectation that we were finding more native Ireland residents who were prepared to do the y-DNA test. Unfortunately, they have backed out, so nothing came of it. But I now have another Irishman “on the hook”. David Coffey, who lives in Dublin, has signed up and his test kit is on the way! Also Jack Coffey, a previously tested participant from Nova Scotia, has just purchased two test kits and is packing his bags for a recruiting trip to Ireland. Will we soon discover a long-lost cousin of the “Edward/Peter” Coffey groups? Or will Jack discover his own Irish roots?

I was sad to hear of the passing of Bennie Lou (Coffey) Loftin on April 7. She was very supportive of our DNA Project from the beginning, and was involved in recruiting the very first tested Coffey men.

Personal Comment: I think I know my Coffey roots. You who know me have known for sometime that my DNA did not come back Coffey, in any form. That led Fred to label me as being in the newest Coffee/y family in America. I don't know how accurate that is but, I have continued to search, believing that my eldest found ancestor to have been the child of a Coffee/y female and, a descendant of Edward.

There was a family tale that my grandfather Coffee was a Mills. That was true, but he was not the original. His grandfather, Lilburn Jackson Coffee was the Mills and was a descendant of William and Sarah Ellis Mills, a family pretty well researched by those whose DNA matches all of my 37-markers. Knowing about the timeframe my Lilburn was born (c1822), I have, through a process of elimination, settled on William and Sarah's son Hardy Mills (1763-1841). He was found on the 1787 tax list for Wilkes Co., NC and was surrounded by Coffey families with young daughters. There was John, Thomas, Reuben, Elender, Benjamin and Jane. I think Jane was Jane Graves Coffey. The closest I have come to naming a mother for Lilburn is Sarah Coffey, a daughter of Thomas and Sally Fields Coffey. She didn't marry until she was age 32 in 1824 and then to Samuel Stewart and would have been available to Hardy in Wilkes Co.

Hopefully, I'm on the right track. I understand from my study that my ancestor could have also

been William Mills II who married Sally Strutton in 1802, Wilkes Co. He and Sally were still making babies in 1821 in Hawkins Co., TN. Lilburn could never give the same birth location in any census, reporting both TN and KY as his birth place. However, all of his children by his first wife were born in TN. Children by second wife were born in Hempstead Co., AR.

It is interesting to note that descendants from that first marriage still spell their name Coffee while descendants from second marriage spell their name Coffey. In every record that I have found for him, his surname was always spelled double-e while other Coffey families around him spelled theirs with "ey."

Hopefully, it's just a matter of time.

Jack

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse Newsletter
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