

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981
Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 1989-2012
Editor: [Jack K. Coffee](#)

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 132 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Hello Coffee-Coffey Cousins

Can you believe that it has been a half of a year since we met in Indiana? Time flies as we get older. Trust all are doing well and I ask each of you to begin thinking of joining us in Tennessee next spring, I believe it has potential to be one of the better Conventions in recent years. A lot of Coffeys and Coffees in that area.

Just got word from Bonnie Culley that her husband Jim had passed away. Please keep Bonnie and her family in your prayers. Jim had had problems for past several years.

Danny & Glenda Coffey

Editor's Comments

Bonnie Culley's husband Jim passed away Aug. 15. He had been ill for several years and will be sadly missed by his family and his many friends. Read his obituary [here](#).



Thanks to **Jimmy Louise Kroger** in CA and to **John Hines** of GA for their contributions towards maintenance of this website!

To subscribe to the printed version of this newsletter, please make checks payable to Jack Coffee. I do not keep a separate account because of small number of print subscribers.

Famous Quotes

"A friend who is near and dear may in time become as useless as a relative."
-- George Ade

Table of Contents

Betsy Durham Boone	2 -3
Incoming Mail	3 - 5
Calvin Allen Coffey	6 - 8
News You Can Use	8
DNA Project News	9 - 15

Contact Info:

Edward Coffey Project blog: <http://tinyurl.com/qbcumjz>
Follow on Twitter [Twitter.com/@CoffeyCousins](https://twitter.com/CoffeyCousins)
E-mail me at jack.coffee@gmail.com

ELIZABETH “Betsy” DURHAM BOON, MY COFFEY HEROINE

Compiled by Janet de la Peña 2014

In 2008, I was excited about my recent research about my ancestor, a “not famous” Daniel Boon, who married Elizabeth Durham, a descendant of Edward and Ann Powell Coffey. My remarks were published in Coffey Cousins’ Clearinghouse, December 2008 issue, page 11. The following year, a Boone author published a book, which included the ancestry and families related to my Daniel Boon. I learned that previous Boone authors had copied and published incorrect information about my Daniel to their readers, including me. The following story is written from the perspective of Daniel’s wife, Elizabeth “Betsy” Durham Boon, and hopefully, corrects some of that misinformation.

Elizabeth was my fifth great-step grandmother, born September 28, 1781, to Pvt. Mastin Durham and Martha “Patsy” Coffey in Burke Co., NC. She died in 1868, in Wayne Co., KY, buried near her father in Big Spring Cemetery in Burfield.

Martha “Patsy” Coffey Durham was born about 1756, to Rev. James Erwin Coffey and Elizabeth Cleveland, and died August 12, 1826, in Wayne Co., KY. She became the first wife of Pvt. Mastin Durham in February of 1774, in Albemarle Co., VA. Their known children were Molly, James, John Milton, Elizabeth “Betsy,” Selah “Celia” and Sarah “Sally” Durham.

The Durhams were members of the Church of Christ on the Head of the Yadkin, currently known as the Yadkin Baptist Church of Caldwell Co., NC. The Monthly Meetings Minutes mention Mastin as attending a meeting in July of 1790 along with Thomas Fields, James Coffey, Eli Coffey, and John Durham. Other minutes include Jesse Boone and Jonathan Boone, the Church Clerk in charge of the Church Book at that time.

Mastin was a man of strong, religious principles. He demonstrated his convictions when he disagreed with other leaders over church matters. Evidently, he was excommunicated for his beliefs for a couple of years. He was welcomed back in October of 1798, and in November, was chosen to keep the Church Meeting Minutes. He kept the Church Book and carried out his Clerk duties. Church Minutes dated March of 1810, show that the church again decided it had to excommunicate the outspoken believer, and again appointed Jonathan Boone to take over the Church Book. This certainly influenced Mastin’s decision to leave the state the following year.

Daughter, Elizabeth Durham, married a “not famous” Daniel Boon, 33 year-old widower with a ten year-old daughter, Mary “Polly,” on Saturday, Aug. 19, 1810, officiated by Rev. Edward Buckner IV, a Baptist Minister, at his home in Buncombe Co., NC.

This Daniel Boon was born Dec. 1, 1777, to Squire Boone and Ann White in Culpeper Co., VA. Squire Boone was the son of Josiah Boone I, the son of George Boone IV and Deborah Howell. George IV was the brother of Squire Boone Sr., father of the famous Daniel Boone.

My Daniel Boon has been confused by several Boone authors in the past with another “not famous” Daniel Boone, born about the same year to Jesse Boone, son of Israel Boone, brother of the famous Daniel Boone. More information on the two Daniels can be requested from The Boone Society.

Mastin and Martha Durham left Wilkes Co., NC, in 1811, according to his Revolutionary War Pension Statement, and migrated with their children and spouses to settle with other former church members in Wayne Co., KY.

Daniel and Elizabeth Boon may have lived with her Durham parents until Daniel made his first known land deed on Feb. 4, 1813, with the probable financial help of his Durham in-laws, named as witnesses.

In the 1840 Wayne Co., KY Census, Daniel Boon owned slaves.

Daniel’s last known deed was dated April 13, 1843, in Wayne County, and because he did not appear in or after the 1850 Census, it is assumed he was deceased. Elizabeth also does not appear in the 1850 Wayne County census.

An Elizabeth Boon was listed in the 1850 Census for Clay Township, Owen Co., IN. She was white, aged 69 years, born 1781 in North Carolina, and lived with several “Free Persons of Color.” Living in the same home with Elizabeth was Zilpha Boon. She was born in May of 1790 in North Carolina, and died Sept. 3, 1900 in Spencer, Owen Co., IN. The Census states that Zilpha had seven children, and outlived all of them.

The 1850 Wayne Co., KY Census lists Elizabeth Boon’s sister, Celia, and her husband, Ebenezer “Eben” Fairchild, and their five unmarried daughters.

The 1860 Wayne Co., KY Census lists the Eben Fairchild family, living with Elizabeth Boon, aged 79 years . . . and no slaves.

I would like to believe that Elizabeth had inherited her parents’ personal character and values. Was she the brave and strong woman, who feared that after her husband’s death, her husband’s slaves would be sold to pay debts? Would they be bought and sold by slave owners who would abuse them and not care for them as she did? Was she her father’s daughter with fierce determination to right a wrong no matter the personal cost? Did she heroically flee Kentucky with her slaves to Indiana, a free state, to set them free? I believe so.

Incoming Mail

Becky Storey [<mailto:4raftin@gmail.com>] is wondering about the various spellings of her family name; e.g., Storey, Storie and Story. She had thought to use headstone spellings but found that later generations of the same family used some of the variations mentioned. She was also wondering why so many of those families left NC and went to Idaho in the mid-1900’s.

Please contact Becky if you have any insight to the the migration and variation in the surname spelling.

Ann Friddle-Boone [<mailto:ancestorkb@gmail.com>] has been in contact with Fred Coffey [fredcoffey@aol.com] about the DNA test of her husband, Ken Boone. Results of the test showed that he had no Boone ancestors but, did match Coffeys and Holts. She wrote that his lineage had been thought to come through Israel Boone, brother of Daniel. Now, the DNA test suggests that it might be through a daughter of Johnny Boone of Yancey Co., NC through one of his daughters or, Johnny's father, Thomas or Thomas' father, Jonathan, brother of Jesse whose three daughters married Coffeys. While she and Fred attend to the DNA possibilities, I suggested that she contact the Boone Society via their website at www.boonesociety.org. In the meantime, if anyone can help with the mystery, please contact Ann at the above address.

Teddy Carr [<mailto:teddycarr@verizon.net>] wrote asking about Alice Coffee [sic] who married Alexander D. Carr. He is curious about the grandparents of Alexander, whose parents were Lorenzo Dow Carr and Margaret Painter, both of Nelson Co., VA and Teddy would like to find Lorenzo's parents. Alice was a daughter of Joseph Clinton Coffey, Jr. and his wife, Nancy Jane Coffey. Nancy was a daughter of the Rev. Henry Benjamin Coffey and his wife, Mary Sarah "Polly" Campbell., also of Nelson Co. Joseph, Jr. was a son of Joseph, Sr. and his wife Elizabeth Phillips. Teddy told me that he had been to the old home place at Piney River. He discovered that after Alex died the family was "hit with the Great Depression and [became] scattered..." In an effort to help Teddy, I turned up Charles Sprouse [<mailto:cmsprouse1@gmail.com>] who is a GG-grandson of Lorenzo. Charles wrote that he has a letter written by Lorenzo to his wife Sarah Margaret Carr in 1897 that indicates the couple was separated and that Sarah Margaret was living with Sarah Margaret Lawhorn, the mother of her daughter's husband [that would be Charles Lawhorn, husband of Lorenzo's daughter, Sarah Jane Carr]. Charles' work keeps him on the road quite a bit so communication between us has been slow. Please contact both of these Coffey Cousins if you are able to help with their research.

Ron Wheeler [<mailto:rwheel5585@hotmail.com>] wrote that he was attempting to prove that Reuben Coffey (born 1744) was a veteran of the American Revolution. Marvin Coffey wrote in his book about James Bluford Coffey that Reuben has often been confused with his nephew, son of James. The 1744 Reuben was a son of John and Jane Graves Coffey "and as far as we know was not in the Revolutionary War." Please contact Ron if you can assist in his effort.

Jo Ann Coffey Peeper [<mailto:Joannmillie1@aol.com>]Joannmillie1@aol.com] has sent me a few photos of descendants of William Allen Coffey and his wife, Mary Wiseman. She descends from their son Rufus and the latest photos are those found amongst her brother Rufus' genealogy papers and are photos of two children belonging to George, the oldest child of William and Mary. Check out the photos at [The Edward Coffey Project](#) blog.

Gina Smith [<mailto:ginasmith@aol.com>] writes that she has been stuck on some of her families for "over 25 years now." [I know the feeling, Gina] She saw a marriage date that I posted for an Isaac Masey [Massie] to a Sarrah [sic] Coffey in Burke Co., NC. Unfortunately, that's all I had was a marriage record. She tells me that she cannot find any further documentation for that couple. Benjamin Coffey was the bondsman and asks if he is the same Benjamin who went to Hawkins Co., TN. There are a number of Benjamin Coffeys in the Wilkes and Burke Co. area and she wonders if anyone has researched each of them. Well, I seem to recall reading years ago in one of the back issues of the CC newsletter that Benjamin was sort of a "professional" bondsman and witness when someone young couple needed him. He shows up in my records at least four times as Bondsman for various Coffey marriages. Write to Gina if you can help!

Laura Moore [<mailto:mooreburleson@aol.com>] wrote to me and send a number of her family photos last year. Her ancestor was John William Coffey, born 1858 in TX to William and Mary Ann Cantrell Coffey. William comes from Edward through his son John > James > Reuben > Charles Oliver. Charles Oliver married Diana Blansett and William, the eldest of their children was born in IL in 1830 and died in Meeker, Lincoln Co., OK in 1902. Mary Ann Canterell Coffey was born in Dec., 1832 and no doubt is also buried in OK but I have not found a record to prove that. I wrote a blog last year about this family and included some of Laura's photos. Browse on over to the [blog](#) and contact Laura if you are a descendant or are able to help complete her research.

Archie Dalton [<mailto:adalton478@hotmail.com>] wrote to let us know about a USA Today article about the TN State Public Library and their on-line database of [family Bibles](#). This reminded me that the Shelby Co., TN [Register of Deeds](#) website has links to some statewide deaths, marriages, and other goodies of interest to researchers.

Mike McMinn [<mailto:mcmminng@austin.rr.com>] wrote that he has been researching his genealogy for 30+ years but is just beginning to look into his Coffey line. His great-grandmother was Mary Francis Coffey, born 1867 in McMinn Co., TN, died 1940 in Chattanooga, Hamilton Co., TN. Her husband was Robert Lee McMinn (1863-1912). Mary Francis' death certificate reports her father as P. A. Coffey, born NC and mother as Catherine Wilson, born TN. I have neither of the three in the Edward Coffey Project. Please contact Mike if you recognize his ancestry.

Ralph Crumpton [<mailto:ralph.crumpton@gmail.com>] sent a file containing info about the trial of the Reed boys accused of killing his GGgrandfather, James H. Coffey, husband of Emily Jane Elrod. Coffey was ambushed while delivering US Mail in Hancock Co., TN. Sam, George, & Will Reed were charged along with their brother-in-law Thomas Green for the murder. Isham Elrod, brother-in-law of Coffey was charged with the murder of John W. Reed, father of the Reed boys. The murder touched off a feud that resulted in the death of Coffey. An article in the Feb. 13, 1908 issue of *The Comet*, Johnson City, TN, Page 3, announced a reward of \$150 by Gov. Patterson for the arrest and conviction of Elrod. The article notes that the crime was committed in Sep., 1907. We believe the Reed boys were acquitted.

And sometimes we get phone calls:

Constance C. Platt formerly of Oregon called recently to catch up on and renew her subscription to this newsletter. Connie is a descendant of Nathaniel Jackson Coffey, born in Adair Co., KY in 1817, died in Menard Co., IL in 1899. She invites cousins and old friends to write to her at 3710 American Way, #307, Missoula, MT 59808-1927 or, to call her at 406-549-2252. She does not use a computer so no e-mail.

Robert C. Coffey of Fresno, CA also called and renewed his subscription. He is a descendant of Thomas Coffey. Which Thomas isn't quite clear to me so potential cousins should write to him at 3085 West Starlane, Fresno, CA 93722-4841.

Calvin Allen Coffey



Calvin Allen Coffey

Calvin was born in Dec., 1839 in TN to James Temple and Sarah Jane "Sally" Fielding Coffey. He left TN sometime before 1869 and settled in Bartholomew Co., IN where he was married to Josephine Simmonds on Apr. 25, 1869. They appeared in the census record for that county until 1900. Calvin died on Feb. 20, 1907 at Haw Creek in Morgan Co., IN and was buried in the Haw Creek cemetery. Josephine was born in IN in Aug., 1851 to Wesley and Margaret Pearson Simmonds [sic] and died in Victoria Co., TX on Mar. 5, 1918.

Children of Calvin and Josephine, all born in Bartholomew Co., were:



Josephine Simmonds

Cora, born in Apr., 1870, died in IN in 1944. She was married on Oct. 28, 1897 in IN to Thomas Frank Linke, born in Clifford, Bartholomew Co. on Mar. 25, 1866 to George O. and Clara Bloom Linke. Thomas died on May 6, 1964 in IN and both are buried at Greenlawn Cemetery in Nashville, Brown Co., IN.

According to the [Hawk Family Genealogy](#) (Edna Linke, a daughter of Cora and Thomas, married Ellis Leroy Hawk) Frank Linke grew up on a farm near Clifford in Bartholomew Co. He is said to have taught school for a year and once rode a bicycle from IN to NE where he also taught school for a year. Several of his mother's half-siblings are said to have lived in NE.

In about 1908, Frank and Cora, along with Frank's brothers Will and Hardin, Cora's brother Webster (Web) Coffey, and Frank's cousin, Jim Rust moved to Texas, near Victoria where they raised cotton. After two and a half years of that back breaking labor, all except Web and Jim returned to Indiana. Frank bought a farm near Seymore in Jackson Co., IN where he and Cora settled down to farming and raising their family.

The 2015 Coffey Cousins' Reunion will be held at Thorn Hill in Grainger Co., TN from May 21 to 23. Kathy Whitson, who hosted us year before last at Eureka College in Eureka, IL, is again in charge and is actively recruiting her Grainger county kin to help. She will likely have plans finalized sometime near the end of the year and they will appear here, of course, as well as other sites on the web. Keep your eyes and ears open and pass the word to all your TN cousins. If you would like to help, contact Kathy at kwhitson@eureka.edu



Walter Castella Coffey

Walter Castella Coffey was the second child born to Calvin and Josephine. He came along on Feb. 1, 1876 in Bartholomen and died in Orlando, Orange Co., FL on Jan. 31, 1956. His wife was Jennie Crisler Lardner, a daughter of Alex and Sarah Crisler Lardner, born in Newton Co., IN on Feb. 4, 1880. They had two sons, Lardner A., adopted and, Walter C., born c1915.

Walter had grown up in Hartsville, IN where he helped his father raise Shropshire0Southdown sheep. He received a two-year degree from Franklin College and spent the next several years teaching in Indiana schools. He took a job with the University of Illinois when he found they were seeking someone

to teach sheep raising. He went from graduate student to faculty member. In 1921 he left Illinois for the University of Minnesota at St. Paul. When the university regents prematurely announced a new dean who promptly refused the job, they appointed Walter to Dean of the Department of Agriculture. Coffey Hall, the main building on the St. Paul campus is named in honor of Walter.

Sources: James Gray, *The University of Minnesota: 1851-1951* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1951), 406-411; "Dr. W.C. Coffey Dies in Florida at 79" *Minneapolis Star* (February 1, 1956): 1C; and E.B. Pierce, "Presidents of Minnesota," *Minnesota Alumnus* (April, 1946): 225.

Webster Victor was the next born to Calvin and Josephine and was born on Dec. 29, 1879 in Bartholomew Co. On Oct. 7, 1914 he married "Fannie" Crum in Victoria Co., TX. He died in Bloomington, Victoria Co. on Feb. 4, 1939 and was buried at Crescent Valley Cemetery in Victoria. Fannie lived until Oct. 7, 1964 when she died in Bloomington, TX. She is probably buried with Web at Crescent Valley but I have no proof of that.



Joel Simmonds Coffey

Another brother born to serve academia was Joel Simmonds Coffey. Joel was born in Rugby, Bartholomew Co., IN on Dec. 8, 1885 and died on Nov. 17, 1951 in Columbus, Franklin Co., OH. He married Dorothy Elizabeth Neff c1922. She was born in OH on May 28, 1901 and died in Los Angeles Co., CA on Sep. 26, 1966.

According to the Ohio State University Bulletin, Vol. 27, Issue 6, for period 1921-22, Joel Simmonds Coffey was on the teaching staff at that university. He was described as having graduated with a B.Sc. from the University of Illinois in 1912; was an instructor at Purdue University from 1912-14; lecturer in Animal Husbandry, Iowa State University during the summers of 1914, 1915 and

1918. From 1918 to the publication of that Bulletin, he was a full professor of animal husbandry.

His obituary was headlined thusly: *Ohio Pig Judge Dies*. It continued "...Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Joel Simmonds Coffey, 65. Professor of animal husbandry at Ohio State University. He died Saturday. Coffey was in charge of swine production courses at Ohio State and was known nationally as a judge of swine. He had taught at Ohio State 37 years." Source *Wilmington [Ohio] News-Journal, 19 Nov 1951, Page 1*

The last child believed born to Calvin and Josephine was Margaret in Sep., 1892.

Unfortunately, I have no further information about her.

News You Can Use

Pennsylvania Death Certificates from 1904 to 1924 (about 2.4 million records) are now available on Ancestry.com. If you don't have an Ancestry account and just need a search for one or two people, contact me.

[Ancestors At Rest](#) is a fairly crowded webpage with a lot of links to "free" death records. I haven't looked at all the states but, the ones that I have looked at seem to be pretty sparse when it comes to having a lot of records for viewing.

A new Kane County, IL website is offering "...purchase and download [of] vital records directly from your computer. You no longer have to write and ask for records..." Take a look at the Kane County Clerk [website](#) for more information.

[FamilySearch](#) recently announced that they had reached an important milestone in an effort to bring free digital images of important documents to researchers. The announcement was astounding. According to [genealogyintime.com](#), it took the church 58 years to record one billion images onto microfilm. It only took seven years for them to create the first 1 billion digital images.

The *Family Tree Magazine* [subscription based] also publishes an "[eNewsletter](#)." A September, 2012 newsletter listed 101 Best Websites for Genealogy: Best Sites for Getting Genealogy News. I don't agree with all of them, but you are the judge. I think most sites are still on-line.

Interested in Irish Genealogy news? [Google](#) "Irish Genealogy News" and you'll turn up about 4,670,000 websites! Leading the list should be news, links and addresses of professional genealogists, guides, National Archives of Ireland, and the like. You can use Google as well to search for Scottish, English, or other European genealogical sources.

Some "researchers" still claim that Edward Coffey was the son of a John Coffey and a Mary Joliffe. John is said to have come to America in 1637 and sired a son born in Ireland some 33 years after arriving in America. I sure would like to see an end to such misleading information!

(1) DNA Project: Searching for Irish Roots

By Fred Coffey

We have several developments to report, involving the use of DNA to search for our Irish roots. Here's a map to show where we're making discoveries:



Following stories will cover (#2) A “scout” searching for DNA of cousins in Cork; (#3) A new DNA match between two lines with ancestors in Tipperary and Kilkenny; (#4) A report on finding connections for our Edward and Peter lines in Kilkenny and Wexford; (#5) Pictures of discovered “most distant cousins” of Edward and Peter lines; and (#6) an interesting untested line, possibly connected to Cork.

The **BIG STORY** for most of our readers is #4, confirming the probable origin location within Ireland for Edward and Peter Coffey, the ancestors of most of us. As one of our DNA Project Administrators, I am greatly encouraged by recent discoveries. I really hope to find additional “Coffey” people to test, particularly those with roots in the Tipperary /Kilkenny /Wexford areas. Native Irish men, or recent immigrants with known origins, would be most welcome.

(2) DNA Project: Searching for Cork Cousins

John William “Jack” Coffey (jackconmira@ns.sympatico.ca) is from Nova Scotia, and believes his roots are in County Cork. He is actively searching for DNA confirmation of his Irish origins, and reports the following:

“I just returned from Ireland and I have two fresh kits to submit for testing. I was able to get one from a Sean Coffey and one from a Tom Cowhig both from county Cork.”

The testing of these two kits is now complete, and neither sample has any matches to any of the existing known Coffey groups. But don't give up, Jack! Your Irish cousins are out there somewhere!

(3) DNA Project: The Tipperary/Kilkenny Group

By Fred Coffey

I have had lengthy discussions with a David Coffey (dwacoffey@hotmail.com), who lives in Dublin, over the last several weeks. David has ancestral roots in Kilkenny County, which we had hopes would prove to be a connection to our Edward and Peter groups. For David's origin, look at the previous map, and find "Castlecomer" in the north part of Kilkenny.

Here is David's ancestry, starting from his GGGG Grandfather, James, born 1745 in Kilkenny:

- (1) James Coffey (1745, , Castlecomer, Kilkenny)
- (2) Michael Coffey (1765, Kilkenny)
- (3) Patrick Coffey (1822, Kilkenny)
- (4) Gilbert Coffey (1853, Dublin)
- (5) William J Coffey (1883, Dublin)
- (6) William Coffey (1924, Dublin)
- (7) David Coffey (1964, Dublin)

(This Picture is David's GG Grandfather Patrick from Kilkenny, with his wife Isabella Mellifont from Cork.)



David's y-DNA did NOT match Edward/Peter, but he had an EXCELLENT match to a Phillip Coffey. Phillip is the brother of Marianne (Coffey) Morrison (morrisom@frontier.com), who has long been a subscriber to this newsletter, and who had an article published in Issue 106-14 (September 2007). Here is Phillip's line:

- (1) Thomas Coffey (1848, Cashel, Tipperary) & Agnes Coffey (Nov 1853, England)
- (2) Thomas P Coffey (23 May 1887, IL) & Mildred Harner (25 Feb 1910 – 12 Sep 1957)
- (3) Marianne Coffey (about 1948, IN)
- (3) Phillip Coffey (about 1949, IN) **(DNA TEST)**

Look back at the map, and find "Cashel" in Tipperary. Philip's ancestry starts with an immigrant Thomas, that Marianne says came from Cashel. Here are some USA records confirming his immigration:

[THE IMMIGRANT THOMAS COFFEY:](#)

1880 CENSUS, CHICAGO, COOK, IL: Thomas (age 30) is found with wife Agnes (26), and children John (1) and Michael (2m).

1900 CENSUS, CHICAGO WARD 5, COOK, IL: Thomas Coffey (born Mar 1848 in Ireland), immigrated 1867, naturalized, a stone cutter, was unemployed for 6 months. Wife is Agnes (b: Nov 1853), immigrated in 1871. They were married in 1876, have had 9 children, 6 still living, The children were all born in Illinois: John (Jun 1878), Thomas (May 1882), Agnes (Jan 1887), Edward (Apr 1891), Eugene (Aug 1893) and Arthur R (Feb 1896).

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DEATH INDEX: Thomas was born in Ireland about 1853, died 2 May 1902 in Chicago. He was a marble cutter.

1910 CENSUS, CHICAGO: Widow Agnes present with children Edward, Agnes, Arthur.

[THOMAS PETER COFFEY, SON OF IMMIGRANT THOMAS:](#)

1920 CENSUS, CHICAGO: Widow Agnes (naturalized 1876) present with sons Thomas and Edward.

1930 CENSUS, MICHIGAN CITY, LA PORTE, IN: Widow Agnes present in household of son Thomas P.

1940 CENSUS, MICHIGAN CITY, LAPORTE, IN: Thomas, age 53, single, present.

WWII DRAFT REGISTRATION: Thomas Peter Coffey registered for the “Old Men’s” draft. He lived in Michigan City, Laporte, IN. Was born in Chicago on 5/23/87, worked at Sullivan Mach. Co.

CITY DIRECTORIES, MICHIGAN CITY, 1938-1960: Found in several directories. From 1949 he is found with wife Mildred.

[PHILLIP & MARIANNE’S OTHER COFFEY LINE:](#)

But wait: Phillip (and Marianne) have TWO lines of “Coffey” in their ancestry. See this:

- (1) Michael Coffey (1816, Fethard, Tipperary) & Agnes (about 1823, Kilkenny)
- (2) Agnes Coffey (1853, England) & Thomas Coffey (1848, Cashel, Tipperary)
- (3) Thomas P Coffey (1887, IL)
- (4) Marianne Coffey (about 1947, IN)
- (4) Phillip Coffey (about 1949, IN)

Phillip’s y-DNA test will not tell us anything about the connection to this Michael, because y-DNA is only handed down from father to son. And the above line has a female, Agnes, in the line.

This Michael Coffey (1816) was born in Fethard, Tipperary, Ireland, and married Agnes (1823) from Kilkenny. They had sons born in Ireland, and the family moved to England between 1845 and 1853. There they added daughters Agnes and Mary Ann. Then everybody moved to USA.

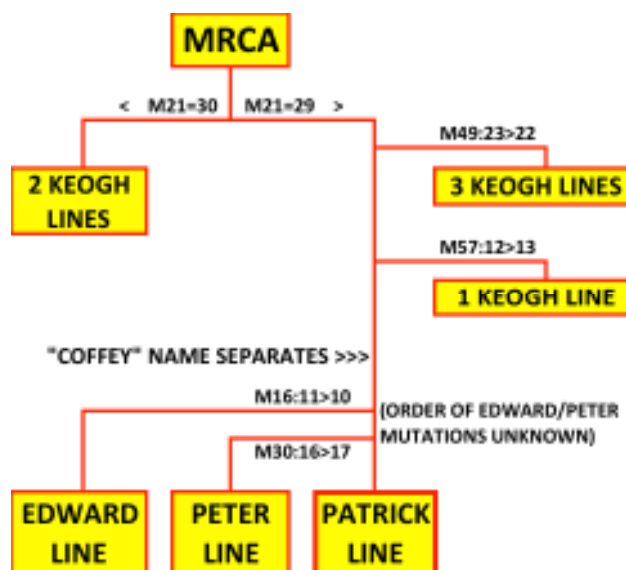
Go back, look at the map, and find Fethard in Tipperary. You will see that Cashel and Fethard are only a few miles apart. Best guess is that Thomas (1848, Cashel) and Michael (1816, Fethard) were somehow related. However I think it possible that the connection MIGHT be to the Edward/Peter lines (see next article). We think we have found a male-line descendant for DNA testing of this “Michael” line. We hope to show progress before the next newsletter.

(4) DNA Project: A Homeland for Edward and Peter?

By Fred Coffey

We now have, for the first time, a DNA match of the Edward Coffey and Peter Coffee lines, to a recent Coffey immigrant from a KNOWN location in Ireland. We have an excellent match to a descendant of **Patrick Coffey**, born 1848 in Ballyhale, Kilkenny County, Ireland. Patrick immigrated to America in 1863. Given that we already knew of DNA matches to a related family from Wexford County, it now seems **highly probable that Edward and Peter had origins in the Kilkenny/Wexford Area.**

DNA shows that once upon a time, maybe 500 years ago, Coffee, Coffey, Keogh, Kehoe, and Kaho were one family with a common ancestor, or “MRCA” (Most Recent Common Ancestor). Over time there were a few mutations to various y-DNA “STR” (Short Tandem Repeat) markers. The first mutation, at Marker #21, split the family, leaving two tested “Keogh” lines separate from all the other tested lines.



Some time later, there was a mutation at Marker #49, separating off 3 of the tested Keogh lines. (The notation "M49:23>22" says that the STR count at that location changed from "23" to "22".)

Another mutation "M57:12>13" split off one more Keogh line. At some point, the remaining people then settled on the pronunciation "Coffey". And from there, two mutations "M16:11>10" and "M30:16>17" split off the Edward and Peter lines. And that leaves our newly discovered PATRICK line, with the least-mutated DNA-line of all.

So our immigrant cousins, Edward, Peter and Patrick, were definitely from one family. We just don't know the names of all their ancestors. And now, here's what we know about the newly-discovered immigrant Patrick's descendants:

- (1) Patrick Coffey (1848 - ~1905) (1863 immigrant from Ballyhale, Kilkenny, Ireland) & Catherine Sullivan
 - (2) Myra J Coffey (1874 -) & Frank Kirby (1873 -)
 - (2) Annie L Coffey (1877 -)
 - (2) Margaret V Coffey (1880 -)
 - (2) James Patrick Coffey (25 Aug 1884 – 1946) & Barbara (1885 = 1945)
 - (3) James Coffey (about 1915 -)
 - (2) Keron Aloysius Coffey (17 Jul 1888 – 1945)
 - (2) Jerome Leo Coffey* (1891 -) & Alice Louisa Drinkwater (~1899 -)
 - (3) Newlon J Coffey (1919 - 2004)
 - (4) Mark Coffey (*Mark was adopted and Newlon is not his biological father.*)
 - (2) Jerome Leo Coffey* (1891 -) & Ethel May Kelly (1901 - 1980)
 - (3) Donald James Coffey (1937 - 2004) & Margaret A Stowe (about 1945)
 - (4) Donald Lee Coffey (~1970 -) (Excellent DNA Match to Edward/Peter lines)

ABOUT PATRICK FROM BALLYHALE:

The really important clue about Patrick actually comes from a Passport Application of his son, Jerome L Coffey, in February 1918. Jerome's application says "*I solemnly swear that I was born at New Brunswick in the State of New Jersey on about the 5 day of July 1891, that my father Patrick Coffey was born in Ballyhale, Ireland, and is now residing at (Dead), that he emigrated to the United States from the port of Dublin/Ireland on or about N 1863, that he resided 42 years, uninterrupted, in the United States, from 1863 to 1905, at Rahway & New Brunswick NJ, that he was naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the Common Pleas Court of Union County at Elizabeth, NJ, on November 7th, 1870, as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization.*"

1880 CENSUS, NEW BRUNSWICK, MIDDLESEX, NJ: Patrick Coffey was born in Ireland about 1847, is a Blacksmith. His wife is Kate Coffy, born about 1850 in NJ. Children are Mariah, age 8, and Annie, age 4.

1900 CENSUS, NEW BRUNSWICK, MIDDLESEX, NJ: Patrick Coffey was born Jun 1848, he is a "tool dresser". He immigrated in 1863 and is naturalized. Wife Catherine was born Aug 1850 in NJ, her parents were born in Ireland. They have been married 29 years (1871 marriage), have had 12 children of which 6 are living. The six children at home are Myra J (Jun 1874), Annie L (Sep 1877), Margaret V (Jun 1880), James P (Aug 1884), Keron (Jul 1888), and Jerome (Jul 1891).

1910 CENSUS, NEW BRUNSWICK, MIDDLESEX, NJ: Catherine Coffee is a widow, born about 1854. She is a mother-in-law, has had 8 children with 6 still living, and is in the household of her daughter Myra and her husband Frank Kirby.

1920 CENSUS, NEW BRUNSWICK, MIDDLESEX, NJ: The widow Katherine Coffey is renting. Living with her is her granddaughter, Katherine Kirby, age 9.

FIND-A-GRAVE: Patrick Coffey (1848-1905) and wife Catherine (1849-1926) and son Keron A Coffey (1888-1945) are buried together in Saint Peters Cemetery, New Brunswick, NJ.

[ABOUT JEROME LEO COFFEY:](#)

NEW JERSEY BIRTHS AND CHRISTENINGS INDEX: Jerome Leo Coffee was born 5 Jul 1891 in New Brunswick, Middlesex, NJ. Father Patrick Coffee (age 43), mother Catherine Sullivan (age 42).

WWI DRAFT REGISTRATION, JUNE 1917: Jerome L Coffey, born July 5 1891, natural born, living at 83 Easton Ave., New Brunswick, NJ, an Automobile Assembler, who partially supports his mother, does not claim draft exemption.

PASSPORT APPLICATION, FEB 1918: Jerome L Coffey applied for a passport, for purpose of "Piston Ring Business" in England. He was an "engineer", planning to help establish a British piston ring plant. (In the application he identifies his father, see notes with father Patrick Coffey.)

LONDON ENGLAND WEDDINGS AND BANNS, 17 Aug 1918: In a marriage solemnized at St. Anne's Church, in the Parish of Tothenham, Middlesex, England, Jerome Leo Coffey, age 27, Bachelor, Engineer, residing at 15 Kent Road, his father's name Patrick Coffey deceased, a Tool Maker. He married Alice Louisa Drinkwater, age 20, spinster, her father's name Charles James Drinkwater, Taxi Driver.

1920 CENSUS, ESSEX, NJ: Jerome Leo Coffey, age 28, born NJ, with wife Alice L Coffey, age 21, with son Newlon J Coffey age 11 months.

MEMO: Jerome and Alice divorced between 1920 and 1930. And I can't find Jerome in the 1930 census.

1930 CENSUS, ESSEX, NJ: Alice L Coffey, born about 1898 in England, immigrated 1918, DIVORCED. Living with son Newlon, born 1919, NJ. (CAUTION: This census entry, and the indexing, is screwed up. Viewers should call up the index for Alice, and then look at the actual image. Son Newlon is on the line ABOVE Alice!)

PASSENGER LIST, NEW YORK ARRIVAL FROM HAVANA CUBA, 29 NOV 1939: Jerome L Coffey, and wife Ethel May, arrive from Cuba.

1940 CENSUS, RYE, WESTCHESTER, NY: Jerome L Coffey, age 49, found with wife Ethel Coffey, age 40 and son Donald J Coffey, age 2. They lived in New Haven, CT, in 1935.

[ABOUT DONALD JAMES COFFEY:](#)

(Information taken from the Ancestry tree prepared by son Donald Lee Coffey.)

[ABOUT DONALD LEE COFFEY:](#)

Don Coffey lives in Larkspur, CO. His DNA test was done on Ancestry.com, which creates some awkwardness in comparisons, since we use FTDNA.com. However there is enough overlap that there is absolutely no doubt about the family relationship.

[OTHER SONS OF PATRICK:](#)

In the hope of finding another DNA sample, I tried to track the other sons of immigrant Patrick.

Son Keron was a seaman, and never married.

Patrick's son James Patrick, however, married a "Barbara". They had two daughters, Clara and Miriam/Marian. And they had a son James P., born about 1915. They can be tracked through the 1920, 1930 and 1940 census, always in Jamesburg, Middlesex, New Jersey. The son James was still living with his mother Barbara and sister Marian in 1940. James is age 25, had an 8th grade education and is a "sailors worker". Can anybody out there discover if son James P later married, and maybe had children????

(5) DNA Project: Our Most Distant Peter & Edward Cousins

Mark Coffey, the adopted son of Newlon Coffey (see previous article), wasn't able to help with DNA. But he had pictures to share.

And given that DNA says the connection of Patrick's line (b: 1848, immigrated 1863) to the Edward and Peter lines has to be way back in Ireland, before the Edward and Peter lines separated, these have to be our most distant known Coffey cousins!

This is Newlon (b:1919) with his father Jerome Leo (b:1891), his mother Alice (1899) and his little sister (believed died young).



Mark also offered Jerome's birth certificate, which names his father, the immigrant Patrick (b: 1848, Ireland, immigrated 1863).

Bureau of Public Health
 No 101
 Division of Vital Statistics, City of New Brunswick

I, E. J. McLaughlin, Registrar of Vital Statistics of the City of New Brunswick, State of New Jersey, do hereby Certify that the following is a true and correct transcript from the record of Births in my office:

Date of Birth July 5, 1911 Name of Child Jerome Coffey Sex Male Color W
 Place of Birth New Brunswick, N. J. (If birth place name, street and number, it was given, specify and county.)
 Name of Father Patrick Coffey Father's Birthplace Ireland
 Maiden Name of Mother Alice Sullivan Mother's Birthplace U.S.
 Age of Father 43 Occupation of Father Grocer Age of Mother 42 Occupation of Mother Housewife
 Number of Children in all by this Marriage 2 also Number of Children now Living 2
 (Professional attendant.)
 (If O. Address.)
 New Brunswick, N. J.

In Certainty Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of the city of New Brunswick, this 28 day of Jan A. D. 1911
 FEE 52 9
 E. J. McLaughlin Registrar of Vital Statistics.

(6) DNA Project: Random Discoveries

One fun thing about attaching my name to the Coffey DNA Project is that I sometimes get small and simple enquiries that lead to something bigger. I got a query in July: *“My name is Goering Eduardo Coffey (gecoffey@gmail.com), living in Honduras. My last name is Coffey and I want to know where my ancestry comes from.”*

My reply was *“The Coffey name is Irish; your ancestors are almost certainly from there. By the way, some time ago I did some searching on a Coffey line with Honduras connections. Do you have an ancestor named Edward Barton Coffey?”*

Our full discussion filled several pages, but the short answer was “Yes”. This led to us working together. He learned more about his family than he ever expected, and I found an ally in my search for a y-DNA sample from a living descendant of one Edward Lees Coffey. This Edward Lees may be a link to a truly ancient Coffey line. See the following:

<http://www.libraryireland.com/Pedigrees1/Coffeylthe.php>

Note that this line is also connected with County Cork, so the map in the first article applies!

We’re still looking for a suitable DNA donor (Goering was not, because of a female in his Coffey line.) Watch this space for future discoveries!

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse
Jack Coffee
308 Summer Ridge Loop
Sunset, LA 70584-5060

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