

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse Newsletter

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981
Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 1989-2012
Current Editor & Publisher: Jack K. Coffee

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 134 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Hello Coffey-Coffee Cousins

We trust that each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving, and we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas. Seems like it is coming early this year. I hope that each of you have made a note of our upcoming Convention, and are making plans to come to Eastern Tennessee for what should be a very educational and fun weekend. We have a lot of cousins in this part of the country and I am sure there will be several come out to visit and meet with us. Kathy assures us that we should have a good time and maybe even meet a few new cousins.

Danny and Glenda

Editor's Comments

Thanks to **Jeanine Celentano & Fred Coffey** for their contributions to the expenses associated with producing this newsletter.

Subscribers, please make checks payable to Jack Coffee. I do not maintain a separate account because of small number of print subscribers.

2015 Reunion Update

Hotel: Best Western Plus, 5435 S. Davy Crockett Pky, Morristown, TN for May 21-23. Contact hotel at 423-587-2400 for reservations. Group rate is \$89.95 + tax. Be sure and tell the hotel you are with the Coffey Cousins' Reunion to qualify for group rate. Contact Kathy Whitson [<mailto:kwhitson@eureka.edu>] for more details.

Famous Quotes

"We are the children of many sires, and every drop of blood in us in its turn ... betrays its ancestor." Ralph Waldo Emerson

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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

William Voris was the husband of Pearl Virginia Coffee, a daughter of Robert Marion and Emma Gaines Reynolds Coffee. Pearl was a descendant of Chesley through Joel (Martha Stepp); James (Eliz. Coffey, d/o Nathan & Mary Saunders Coffey); Logan McMillon (Mary E. Ragland), parents of Robert Marion.

"A Race for Life

"Fight Between Gila County Officers and the White Mountain Apaches at Cibicu Chief Nan-tan-go-tayz Killed.

"Probably few, if any readers of the item published in last Saturday's Silver Belt, that an Indian had been killed on Cibieu by cowboys, entertained the least suspicion that the parties referred to as 'cowboys' were Deputy Sheriff E. L. Benbrook and posse. Few, in fact, were aware of his departure from Globe, or of his mission to the Cibieu country. The facts in regard to that trip, as related by Mr. Benbrook, are about as follows:

"At the October (1895) term of the District Court of Gila county, two Indians, Tonto C 24 and Tonto O 8, were indicted for burglary committed at the Vosburg ranch, in the vicinity of Pleasant Valley. The warrant for the arrest of the Indians wanted was delivered to Deputy Benbrook, who left Globe, December 1, for Cibieu to make the arrest. Arriving at Pleasant Valley, he was joined by Bill Voris, Frank Ketcherside and Huse Kyle. The party left the Gentry ranch, three miles above Ellison's, on Thursday morning, December 5, and arrived at Cooley's camp, (Cooley being head chief of the band of Indians), on Cibicu creek, 30 miles distant, about sundown.

"Nan-tan-go-tayz, the chief then in authority, a brother of Chief Cooley, upon being informed through an interpreter what the officers wanted, consented to the arrest of the two Indians. Tonto C 24 was identified and placed under arrest, and the officers had started to ride away with their prisoner, when Ketcherside recognized the other buck wanted, Tonto O 8, among the forty or fifty Indians in the camp. At this juncture Loco Jim hailed the officers and asked what they wanted with the two Indians, and Captain Jack, the interpreter, rode up and said they could not take the Indians away.

"While they were parleying the other Indians began to gather in around the officers, and Nan-tan-go-tayz, the chief, camp up close to Ketcherside's horse and made a grab at the bridle rein, but missed it, as the horse jerked his head away. The chief then went up to Voris and with both hands grasped the Winchester hung on the side of the saddle, and attempted to draw the gun from its holster.

"Voris, thereupon, caught the Indian's wrist with both hands and broke the hold of one hand on the gun, when the Indian, retaining his hold on the gun with one hand, grasped the bridle rein of Voris' horse with the other. Just then Tonto C 24, one of the Indians whom the posse went to arrest, fired a shot from a distance of about 20 yards, and Voris, seeing that the situation was desperate and that they chief was getting the better of him, drew his six-shooter

and fired at his adversary. The Indian throw his head back and avoided the bullet, whereupon Voris placed the pistol close to the Indian's breast and fired again.

Nan-tan-go-tayz fell forward on his face without uttering a sound. About twenty-five Indians standing on the side of a hill, some sixty yards away, then fired a volley at the officers, which passed over their heads, and the latter returned the fire from their pistols.

"The officers put spurs to their horses and a race for life began, the Indians who were mounted and armed giving chase. After a hard run of half a mile the trail made an abrupt turn and the Indians in the lead by a flank movement, got ahead of the officers, who, seeing they were cut off, took to the cedar brake to the right of the trail and up the steep side of the mountain. Here the posse got scattered; Voris was in the lead, and, dusk having fallen, he regained the train, forged ahead alone and reached Ellison's ranch about 1:30 o'clock on Friday morning. Benbrook and Kyle soon came together again in the timber. Benbrook's pony was winded, and going up the mountain fell and caught the rider's right knee under the saddle, causing him a painful injury. Having returned to the trail, they were again headed off by the Indians and forced once more to take to the timber and were joined by Ketcherside.

"Voris, when he reached a narrow defile near Canyon creek, twenty miles from Cibicu, saw a signal fire a short distance from the trail, and when Benbrook, Ketcherside and Kyle passed, the embers of the fire were plainly to be seen. The Indians who had got ahead of them on the trail had probably made the fire to signal John Dazin's band of Indians, and he had then gone on to the main crossing of Canyon creek, with the intention of ambushing the officers. Suspecting this, Voris left the main trail and crossed Canyon creek lower down, and his companions, under the guidance of Ketcherside, took an old trail that crossed the creek higher up, and they arrived at Ellison's ranch at 3 o'clock Friday morning.

"When the fight commenced at Cibieu, the officers were compelled to abandon their pack mule which was carrying their blankets, sixty rounds of ammunition, provisions and camp utensils. That any of the men escaped with their lives seems providential, and can be accounted for only by the approach of nightfall, which lent them its kindly protection.

"The officers, when they realized the futility to take the two Indians, tried to get away peaceably, intending to go to Fort Apache and ask the military for assistance, but the Indians, bent on mischief, provoked the fight. The Indians were the aggressors and the officers when attacked were in the discharge of their duty.

"The apathy and apparent unwillingness of the military at Apache, on former occasions, to assist civil officers in the apprehension of Indian malefactors is sufficient excuse for Deputy Benbrook not going first to the post, to request a military escort to aid and protect him in the discharge of his duty. It was in August, 1890, that Sheriff J. H. Thompson went to Fort Apache to secure the arrest of Guadalupe and other Indians who murdered young Baker in the Sierra Ancha. Colonel Hunt, then in command at Apache, made no effort to arrest the

Indians for whom the Sheriff held Warrants, further than that, after two or three days' delay, two scouts went out, as alleged, to get Guadalupe, but returned without him. A few days after Guadalupe came in and on the insistence of Sheriff Thompson was placed in the guard house.

"The Sheriff then requested an escort to San Carlos, which Colonel Hunt refused him, and, after remaining about ten days at Apache, the Sheriff too Guadalupe from the guard house at 3 o'clock in the morning and, by a forced ride of 90 miles, reached San Carlos safely with his prisoner.

"The White Mountain Apaches, living on Cibieu creek, are the most warlike and treacherous Indians on the reservation. While ostensibly under the surveillance of the commanding officer at Fort Apache, practically they are under no restraint whatever. They continue in their pristine savagery, enjoying the largest liberty, and retaining their hatred of the whites. They kill cattle and loot ranches when opportunity offers, and are not averse to taking human life.

"These Indians, living forty-six miles from Fort Apache, can not be kept in subjection. They roam at pleasure, and may be off the reservation for weeks at a time without the knowledge of the commanding officer at Apache. They are a continual menace to the peace of Eastern Arizona, and it is high time that the Government remove them to the Indian Territory, or elsewhere, where they could be kept under strict surveillance.

"In order to show the character of these Indians we will relate a little history. In 1881, some 500 Indians were living on Cibieu creek, whom the Government had found it impractical to remove to San Carlos, as the Indians objected, and were too strong in numbers and warlike in spirit for the authorities to attempt compulsion. Nock-a-del-kleny, a medicine man, by incantations and prophecies that he would bring the dear warriors to life, incited the Indians to rebellion, and to prevent the threatened outbreak[,] Colonel Carr, with a detachment of soldiers and scouts from Fort Apache, went to Cibieu to arrest the medicine man. The Indians resisted and were joined by Carr's scouts, who opened fire on the soldiers, killing Captain Hentig and ten soldiers, and followed the command to Apache and fired on the post. Nock-a-del-kleny, the medicine man, was killed in the engagement at Cibicu.

"Proceedings were instituted before U. S. District Court Commissioner Kinney, on Thursday, and warrants issued for the arrest of the Indians, to the number of twenty or more, who fired upon Deputy Benbrook and posse, December 5, on Cibieu. The warrants were placed in the hands of Deputy U. S. Marshall J. H. Thompson, who, accompanied by Messrs. Benbrook, Ketcherside, Voris and Kyle, left Thursday noon for San Carlos to join Lieutenant Fenton's command and accompany them to Fort Apache, where Deputy Marshal Thompson will apply to Colonel Powell, the commanding officer, for assistance to the effect the arrest of the Indians."

Next time: Troops from [Fort] Apache

NB: Cibieu is Cibicue Creek; Nock-a-del-kleny is Nock-ay-det-Klinne who began holding ceremonies that became known as "Ghost Dances" at the village on Cibecue. Col. Carr was Eugene Asa Carr.

Source: *Arizona Silver Belt*. (Globe City, Pinal County, Ariz.), 14 Dec. 1895. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.

<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84021913/1895-12-14/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Incoming Mail

After working on the John William-Virginia Pearl Coffee Voris story, I was able to locate and contact a descendant, Carol Coffee Reposa, a great-granddaughter of Robert Marion Coffee. She wrote that her grandfather was "a figure sheathed in mystery, an ancestor of whom we know almost nothing." I was able to take her back to the mythical Chesley. Other Chesley descendants may contact Carol at <mailto:creposa@satx.rr.com>

After making her contribution, Jeanine Celentano [mailto:moochie_1952@yahoo.com] wrote with an invitation to view her family records on Ancestry.com. She is a descendant of Edward through his third great-grandson, James Arthur Coffey and his wife Martha Dalton. Jeanine's information added much needed descendant information on James' son, Noah Leander "Lee" Coffey.

Judy Bunansky [<mailto:jbun906@yahoo.com>] is a long time newsletter reader who recently wrote that she was having difficulty locating a wife of her grandfather John William York of Burksville in Cumberland Co., KY. She wrote: "...in the Burkesville Courthouse I found two marriage records a few months apart for my grandfather. One was for Melvina Janes and one for Melvna (could also be Melva or Melvina the writing was bad) Coffey. I don't think he actually went through with the marriage to the Janes girl because it said the certificate was not returned. However a few months later the wedding for the Coffey girl appears. The wedding was on May 2 1897 at her mother's home and it listed her mother as Meloina Coffey. A father is not listed. The bride was born in 1867. I believe she died before 1900 (or left him....) because in the 1900 census it shows him as 'widowed' and living with his brother and family. The Samuel and Nonnie I had given you earlier were actually the parents of the Janes woman. All of these families lived in Adair or Cumberland Counties. I have not been able to find anything on either family." Judy is also "...interested in connecting with descendants of James David Coffey born Dec 1881 died Apr 1968 in Burkesville. He [was] the son of John Willis Coffey. James David was married to Amanda Garrett sometime before 1904. They had three children that I am aware of: Lydia Coffey born 1904, John N. Coffey born in 1906 and Ida Coffey born in 1910. I can find no info on Lydia or Ida or family of John N." Please write to Judy if you can help her sort out these Coffey families.

Marilyn Maryott [<mailto:marilyn@daylilygarden.net>] wrote that "While doing some research I ran across your website. My second great grandfather is one Jacob Edward Coffey who married Mary Lockhard. He was born about 1823 in OH and died 1901 in IL. In the many years I have been searching, I have not been able to find any information about his parents or grandparents. The spelling of the name seems to be consistent. I would be happy to purchase the book mentioned on your website if Jacob E. Coffey is listed. Thanks so much. You have a wonderful website." Jacob and Mary were married in Montgomery County, OH in November 1841 and were in the 1850 Randolph Township, Montgomery County, OH with children John, Lydia and Amanda. Jacob Edward Coffey is not in my Edward Coffey Project so, please write to Marilyn if you can help.

Mike Beranek [<mailto:mber1701@gmail.com>] wrote looking for the birthmother of his adopted half-brother, Marc. Marc's DNA was tested and found to be a descendant of Edward and has zeroed in on Homer Guy Coffey and his wife, Amy Francis Jones. Homer Guy was a son of James Chiless Coffey and wife Nancy Ellen Braden. He found two granddaughters of Homer but neither appears to be the mother. The ladies told Mike they remember their uncle, Homer Lee Coffey, a son of Homer Guy who married a lady by the name of Opal and had a daughter by the name of Janet, believed to have been born in Colorado c1947. Mike thinks Janet might be Marc's birth mother. If you know anything about this family and would like to help Marc and Mike's effort, please contact Mike and the above e-mail address or, at telephone 847-269-1204.

David McElyea, age 18, wrote to tell me that his grandmother was Alta Jacobs Taylor, the youngest child of James David and Caroline Dix Jacobs. He offered to share information on Henry Spencer and Pheoba [sic] Coffey Dix and their descendants. You can reach David at [<mailto:david.mcelyea1@gmail.com>]

Morgan Jones [<mailto:mtjones3@gmail.com>] tells me that his mother was Hazel Marguerite Jone, born Nov. 21, 1918 in Crosbyton, TX and passed away on Jun. 29, 2000. Her father was Ransom Jerome Coffey but chose to go by Romey John Coffey. Her mother was Ora Irene Fullingim Coffey, born in Emma, TX. Emma was removed from the map after the railroad chose to go through Crosbyton instead of Emma. Morgan says he has a lot of Coffey info he is willing to share, time permitting.

Mike McMinn [<mailto:mcminng@austin.rr.com>] followed up with news about his search for Pleasant A. Coffey and wife Catherine Wilson (CCC, Vol. 132, p5). He spent several months reading through back issues of this newsletter and cites Dorothy Shamblin (CCC, Vol. 49, p7) and Earlene Hutsell (CCC, Vol. 99, p7) and two researchers who appear to have been looking for the same family. It is doubtful that contact info for these two ladies is still valid. If anyone knows them and how to make contact, or of Pleasant's family, please drop Mike a note.

Artist John Russell Coffey, Jr.

As part of my personal research efforts as well as efforts to find interesting information to share in this newsletter, I patronize many websites that cater to those people with varied interests. A few months ago I began to notice some art work posted to Google+ [<https://plus.google.com/>] by John Coffey. Some of his work reminded me of old grocery stores and other buildings that I had seen in and around rural NC and eastern TN some years ago. So, I wrote to John hoping that I would be able to interview him for inclusion in this newsletter. He responded with enthusiasm and was willing to answer a few questions for readers.

John, Jr. was born in California while his father served in the Marine Corps during WW2. He now lives with his family in Princeton, WV but his paternal grandparents were natives of Caldwell Co., NC. His father was John Russell Coffey, Sr. born in War Eagle, Mingo Co., WV in 1915. His mother was Sybil Isabelle Ball, born in 1913 in Peterstown, Monroe Co., WV. John Russell died in Oct., 1981 at Murphy, NC and ashes scattered over the Gulf of Mexico. His mother passed away in Jan., 2001 at Princeton and was buried at Peterstown, WV cemetery. The state borders in that area have changed several times over the years and right now, the cemetery is located in Giles Co., VA.

John Russell's father was John Kelly Coffey, born 1868 in Kings Creek, Caldwell Co. His spouse was Mary Elizabeth Crotts. Sybil Ball's parents were Luther Claude and Ellen Victoria Pyne Ball. John Kelly passed away on Nov. 4, 1931 in Williamson, WV; Mary Elizabeth Crotts in Feb., 1978 at Barboursville, WV. Luther Ball died before 1930 in WV while Ellen Victoria died in Nov., 1981 at Peterstown, WV.

As mentioned, John Russell Coffey, Sr. was in the military and served with the United States Marine Corps. He served during WWII in the "south Pacific, including Guadalcanal." John, Jr. was born in 1945 at Camp Pendleton at Oceanside, CA. At age two, the Coffey family was transferred to Camp Lejune, NC and three years later they were transferred to a naval base in Scotia, NY where John Russell, Sr. served until he was sent to Korea for that war ["police action" as the politicians like to call it]. John, Jr. and his mother moved back to WV to live with her mother for the duration. John Russell was seriously wounded in Korea [he had previously contracted Malaria while fighting in the south Pacific] and spent a year in a naval hospital in Japan. When he finally returned home, the family continued to live in WV.

John graduated from high school in 1963 and entered Concord College, now Concord University in Athens, WV. He told me that although he had no previous training, he decided on art and received a degree in that discipline and minored in political science. He told me that he barely edged out a "C" in water color class but did well in his other art classes.

Sometime in the 80's, John decided to teach himself how to paint with watercolors and has now, in his words, "attain[ed] a small degree of proficiency in the medium."mailtoht

He currently lives with his wife Gloria Jean Meade Coffey at Princeton, WV. They have three sons and three grandchildren. He invites readers to browse his galleries at his website, <http://johncoffeywatercolors.com>

News You Can Use

Researchers should check out the **FamilyTree.com blog** website at [\[http://www.familytree.com/blog/\]](http://www.familytree.com/blog/) from time to time. One recent blog concerned North Carolina land deeds back to the 1740's. A number of counties in that state are in the process of digitizing those records and some have been completed. The blog lists the following: Anson, back to 1749; Chatham, back to 1771; Cumberland, back to 1754; Duplin, back to 1749; Johnston, back to 1789; Martin, back to 1771; Mecklenburg, back to 1763; Samson, no dates, but link provided; and Stokes, back to 1787. Readers can find this blog at <http://tinyurl.com/oddjlxw>.

The 2015 Coffey Cousins' Reunion will be held at Thorn Hill, in Grainger Co., TN. Because there are no accommodations in Thorn Hill it will be necessary for us to stay in Morristown, Hamblen Co. and drive the 20+ miles each way to the Community Center in Thorn Hill where we will meet. Carpooling will probably be available. See this newsletter's front page for more details and visit <http://tinyurl.com/mrk4kdg> for additional details. For the latest, contact hostess Kathy Whitson at e-mail address, also on front page.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, You'll! In the words of my childhood idol, Roy Rogers, "...may the Good Lord Take a Likin' to you!"

(1) DNA Project: New Web Page

By Fred Coffey

I have substantially extended and revised our DNA Project Web Page. It covers more material, using what I hope is an easier and more intuitive format. Please have a look at:

www.Coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA

I will continue to report occasional new developments in this newsletter, but the overall view of our Project is best seen on this page.

(2) DNA Project: The Beauty of County Kilkenny, Ireland

By Fred Coffey

The largest Coffey group in America is the "Edward/Peter Group", and a very large percentage of the readers of this newsletter (including myself) belong to this group. And in the last newsletter, I reported that we had identified the probable Irish homeland of our family as Counties Kilkenny and Wexford.

I have now discovered Mr. "Aedan Coffey", who actually lives in Kilkenny. Aedan identifies with a line of Coffeys that have a very ancient Irish pedigree, and he has agreed to participate in our DNA project. His test is in progress, and we'll report results in the next newsletter.

But Aedan is a landscape photographer, and he has posted on-line some of the most beautiful pictures I've ever seen, with many of them showing Kilkenny.

Here's Aedan at work>>>

If you're at all interested in the beauty of our ancient homeland, you must visit his homepage and look at his galleries, particularly Kilkenny. There are also some pictures of Wexford:

<http://www.aedancoffey.com>

He also has some newer pictures posted on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/aedan.coffey/photos_stream



(3) DNA Project: Finding a Lost Cousin

By Fred Coffey

This newsletter has for over 30 years reported on the "Hugh Coffey" family line – see our new DNA Project web page for discussion of the Hugh Group. We were recently able to use a combination of y-DNA and autosomal DNA testing to prove a non-surname, previously unknown family connection:

Several years ago, the family of "Edward Preston Wilson", did not know his ancestry any farther back than his grandfather. His sister arranged for a y-DNA and a "Family Finder" (autosomal) test. Their interest was in finding "Wilson DNA Matches", but to their disappointment the tests did not establish any connection to his expected Wilson ancestry.

However just recently it was noticed that he had y-DNA matches to our "Hugh Coffey" group. This test takes a long-range perspective, and these matches proved that somewhere back in time, perhaps as close as a couple of generations, perhaps as far back as 15 or more generations, it is clear Edward Wilson had "Hugh line" Coffey ancestry.

That prompted a closer look at his autosomal DNA test matches. This is a short-range test, which normally can't reliably see farther back than GG Grandparents. And he has three matches to people with a "Coffey" ancestor descending from Hugh. One of these is to Richard Lee Coffey, and the test indicates that Edward Wilson and Richard Coffey are related between the second and third cousin level.

Edward Wilson's sister Ginny Thomas (Virginia "Wilson" Thomas) is coordinating the genealogy studies to try to pin down the exact ancestry. Once she and the other Hugh descendants have their ideas sorted out, I hope one will write an article for this newsletter.

We also have in process an upgrade of Richard's y-DNA test to 111-markers, which ought to be complete by mid-December. There is a chance this will offer some evidence on the Hugh Group's deeper background in Ireland. Check our DNA web page after mid-December for possible new information.